SPORTS / A23

Bata, Django rout Malta in World Cup

BUSINESS / B1

Manila among cheapest cities to live in, says Swiss Bank Survey

NEWS / A2

Ninoy slay convict backs driver's version of events.

WORLD / A20

Russian airliner crashes in turbulent weather; 170 killed

Burnham photographers on brink of extinction

MAGTAYO NA LANG SILA NG MUSEUM PARA SA CAMERA NILA!

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE DIGital age comes with dim images to the 55 roving photographers of fog-draped, romantic

DIGITAL/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, August 24, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 257 P18 website: www.inq7.net

SC slams door on use of poll counting machines

By Armand N. Nocum, Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DENIED LAWYER Romulo Macalintal's petition to allow the use of automated counting machines (ACMs) it declared defective more than two years ago. It said that granting the petition would exculpate officials of the Commission on Elections involved in

SC SLAMS/ A4

NPA bags 29 rifles in Bukidnon raid

Rebels also seize firearms in Capiz, Negros Occidental

THE COMMUNIST NEW People's Army on Tuesday night raided a military outpost in Bukidnon, killed an Army officer and seized 29 assault rifles in one of their most successful attacks on a military target this year.

Maj. Ernesto Torres, an Army spokesperson, said about 50 NPA guerrillas attacked a military patrol base, setting off a gun battle that killed an Army sergeant and wounded a militiaman.

Torres said several guerrillas were wounded during the clash and were taken away by other rebels.

An Army platoon of about 30 soldiers was deployed to secure the base and help pursue the attackers, he said.

"This is a big debacle, definitely it will be investigated because so many firearms were taken," Torres said.

He said among the firearms taken were M-16 and M-14 rifles, which are used by snipers.

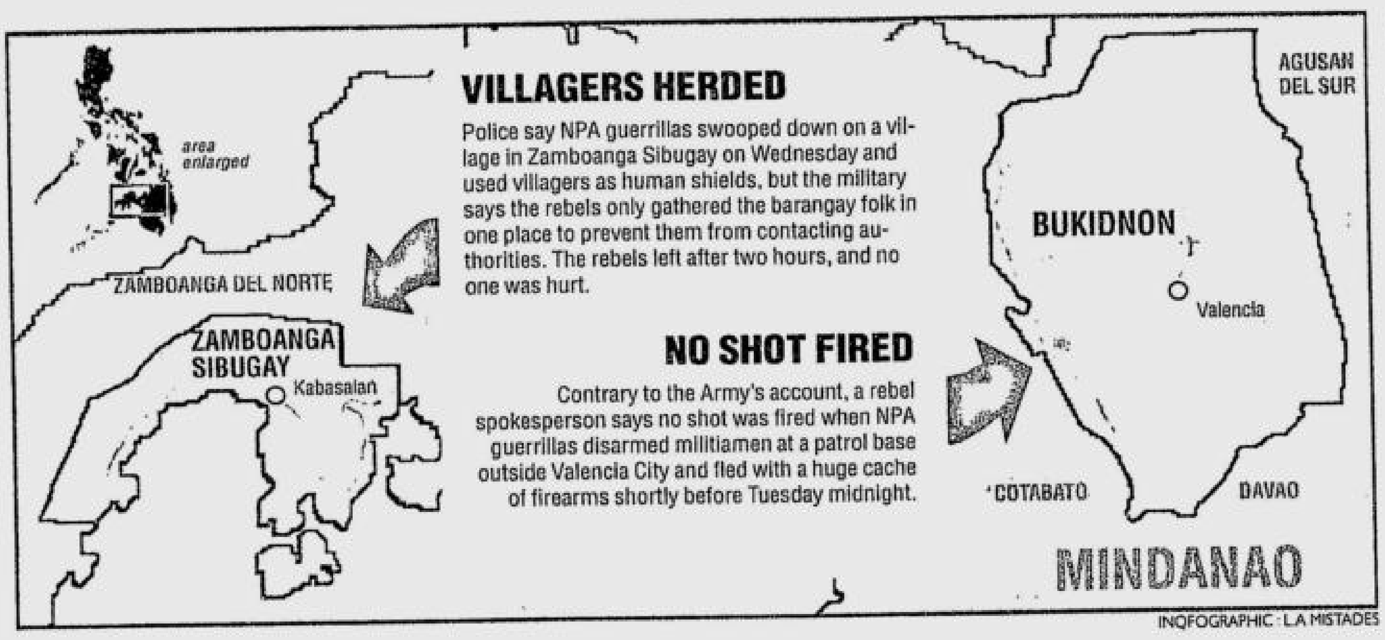
A spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front in Mindanao, however, told reporters that no shots were fired during the NPA raid.

Cesar Renerio, the NDF spokesperson, said a platoon of guerrillas under the NPA Ernesto Roa Command stormed the military detachment in Barangay Boco, outside Valencia City, at around 11 p.m., and quickly disarmed the militiamen.

"The enemy was too complacent ... Our fighters caught them by complete surprise," Renerio said.

"Several members of a paramilitary unit inside the base did not offer any resistance. At least 29 rifles were taken from the detachment," he added. "There were no shots fired, according

NPA/ A4



VILLAGERS HERDED

Police say NPA guerrillas swooped down on a village in Zamboanga Sibugay on Wednesday and used villagers as human shields, but the military says the rebels only gathered the barangay folk in one place to prevent them from contacting authorities. The rebels left after two hours, and no one was hurt.

NO SHOT FIRED

Contrary to the Army's account, a rebel spokesperson says no shot was fired when NPA guerrillas disarmed militiamen at a patrol base outside Valencia City and fled with a huge cache of firearms shortly before Tuesday midnight.

INQFOGRAPHIC : LA MISTADES

GMA allies begin burial ceremony for impeach bid

By Michael Lim Ubac

DECLARING THAT THE MOVE TO OUST President Macapagal-Arroyo was beyond resuscitation, administration allies were poised last night to scuttle the impeachment complaint against her that was killed by the House committee on justice last week.

Repeating what they did in September last year, the pro-Arroyo congressmen were to uphold the committee report killing the second impeachment complaint in less than a year against the President for lack of substance.

The House in a plenary was to conduct a roll call balloting in which each of the 233-member chamber was to be given three minutes to explain the vote. A vote of a third of the membership is required to bring the case to trial in the Senate, but the minority did not have the magic number of 78.

But debates late into the night delayed the vote.

Rep. Simeon Datumanong, the com-

GMA ALLIES/ A4

Who will pay? Gov't forms body to probe sinking

A VILLAGER wades through oil slick that contaminated a mangrove forest in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, on Wednesday. The Philippine Coast Guard warned of a "looming ecological time bomb" in the face of the country's worst oil spill. AFP

By Leila B. Salaverria, Christine O. Avendaño and Inquirer Visayas

NEARLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE oil-filled MT Solar I sank off Guimaras Island and spilled its contents, the government formed a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to investigate the sinking and determine the liabilities of those involved.

The 11-member SBMI was given 72 hours starting yesterday to submit an initial report to the Department of Transportation and Communication, and two weeks to one month to conduct the investigation.

The SBMI is composed of Rear Adm. Danilo Abinoja of the Philippine Coast Guard as chair; Primor Rivera, deputy administrator of Maritime Industry Authority, as vice chair; and representatives of the Philippine Ports Authority, the Professional Regulation Commission, master mariners, chief engineers and lawyers as members.

SBMI is tasked with determining the cause of the sinking, the person or persons responsible for it, and the violations of maritime laws, and rules and regulations to be cited as basis for legal action, according to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The board will also recommend measures to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents.

WHO WILL/ A8

S. Leyte public high schools rule national examinations

By Jani Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—THREE PUBLIC HIGH schools in Southern Leyte captured the top three places in the National Achievement Test (NAT) conducted in March.

Five other public high schools in the province landed in the top 30 while 11 elementary schools are also among the top 30.

The top three schools and their mean percentage scores (MPS) are Rizal National High School in Tomas Oppus with 81.48, Marayag National High School in San Francisco with 79.07 and Pintuyan National Vocational High School in Pintuyan with 78.69.

These schools are located in 5th class municipalities.

The three top schools and five others, which are all located in backwater municipalities of the province, were among the 5,700 public schools nationwide that took the NAT for first year students.

The five other high schools in the province with their ranking are Limasawa National High School, Limasawa, 77.41 MPS at 7th; Sta. Paz Norte National High School, in San Francisco, 77.25 MPS at 8th; Concepcion National High

S. LEYTE/ A4

Guimaras folk warned against 'neurasthenia'

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHRONIC EXPOSURE OF GUIMARAS residents to bunker fuel oil from a sunken tanker off the island might lead to a psychiatric condition known as "neurasthenia," according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

The condition "covers a wide spectrum of symptoms, including the sensation of pain or of numbness in various parts of the body, chronic fatigue, weakness, anxiety and fainting," says the British Columbia Health Guide website.

"We caution the people against bathing, swimming or wading into the oil-contaminated water," Duque said yesterday at a press conference. "We also warn them not to eat shellfish and other aquatic products from the contaminated waters."

Duque said neurasthenia could also manifest in depression, sleep disturbances, impaired attention and lack of initiative, dizziness and palpitation.

He said a patient could only be diagnosed with neurasthenia if such symptoms were consistently present for three months.

A patient suffering from such condition exhibits "cold, clammy hands

GUIMARAS/ A8

Lack of national security policy imperils the country

By Cecilio T. Arillo
Contributor

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

Editor's note: The writer is a veteran journalist and security analyst who teaches interdisciplinary studies. This series is excerpted from his forthcoming book, "A Country in Peril."

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is battling insurgencies on three fronts but is neither equipped with a coherent national security strategy nor a law to give teeth to its campaigns.

The most dangerous threat comes from reform-minded young officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They have access to organic weaponry and other war materiel and operate inside the belly of the government. Moro separatists stalk Mindanao. Communist insurgents roam the countryside and some urban centers, mounting ambuscades, political assassinations, banditry, kidnappings and collecting revolutionary taxes.

Some government officials are loudly

LACK OF/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Ninoy slay convict backs driver's tale

By Ramon Tulfo

THE HIGHEST-RANKING ENLISTED MAN CONVICTED FOR THE ASsassination of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. and Rolando Galman, Aquino's alleged assassin, yesterday said 13 soldiers who are serving sentences for the double murder were innocent of the crime.

Former M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, of the defunct Aviation Security Command (Avsecom), said it was Galman who shot Aquino at the tarmac of the Manila International Airport (MIA) on Aug. 21, 1983.

His statement supported the claim made the other day by SPO4 Ruben Cantimbuhan, the driver of the van that took the Avsecom soldiers to the MIA that day, that he saw Galman shoot Aquino.

Martinez said he was part of the assassination plot against Aquino but the 13 other soldiers serving two life sentences for the double murder were not.

"I feel sorry for them. They didn't know anything," said Martinez, 69, in an interview at the National Penitentiary where he is serving out his sentence.

The Aquino-Galman double murder case has been closed for more than 15 years now following the conviction of 16 Avsecom soldiers in 1990. Former Avsecom Chief Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio died in prison. S/Sgt. Cordova Estelo was stabbed dead a year ago by another inmate.

According to Martinez, one month before the assassination, Col. Romeo Ochoco, the Avsecom vice commander, had called him aside and let him in on the plot.

Martinez said Ochoco told him that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos wanted Aquino, who was returning home from exile in the United States, to replace him.

"If Ninoy becomes President, we will go to the hills," Martinez quoted Ochoco as telling him in Filipino.

Ochoco allegedly told Martinez that Aquino should not be allowed to take over from Marcos.

Martinez said Ochoco gave the thumbs-down sign to indicate that the former opposition senator should be killed.

Martinez said he was introduced to Galman on Aug. 19, 1983 at the Carlton Hotel near the MIA. He became Galman's handler from that time up to the day of the killing.

On the eve of the assassination, Martinez said, Galman test-fired the .357 Magnum Smith and Wesson revolver at the side of the tarmac of the Domestic Airport. The sergeant said Galman fired at a tree at pointblank range.

"That's how I shoot, Master, point-blank, to make sure," Galman allegedly told Martinez in Filipino.

Martinez said that hours before the appointed time, Ochoco gave these last-minute instructions to Galman: "You'd better do it well because if you fail, Master [referring to Martinez] will shoot you."

Martinez said that he was beside Galman when the latter shot Aquino after he came down the steps of the plane.

"Galman hesitated. He looked at me. I stared at him and he took out his gun," said Martinez.

Sgt. Rolando de Guzman, who was one of Avsecom soldiers escorting Aquino, shot Galman. The other soldiers fired at Galman as he lay dead on the tarmac.

The court version of the incident pointed to Sgt. Rogelio Moreno as Aquino's assassin.

Martinez said that he came out with the "true story" in 1994 when then the late senator Blas Ople visited the National Penitentiary. But nobody believed him, he said.

He said he has been bothered by his conscience.

"Something in me kept saying, 'you're a liar, you're a liar," said Martinez, who has become a Born-Again Christian pastor.

The Public Attorney's Office yesterday asked for United States assistance in the arrest of a former Air Force captain who is believed to hold the key to finding out who masterminded the Aquino assassination.

Capt. Felipe Valerio, who led the 10-man Avsecom team assigned to secure Aquino on his return, was one of the accused in the double murder but had left the country before he could be tried. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

FOOLPROOF ID. President Macapagal-Arroyo (with National Statistics Office head Carmencita Ericta) personally kicked off yesterday the launching of the unified identification system, dubbed the People's ID Card, to streamline citizens' transactions with government. The card is now being pilot-tested in two state agencies but is voluntary for private citizens. LYN RILLON

Sigaw ng Bayan: Signatures are in

By Norman Bordadora

SIGAW NG BAYAN LEADER RAUL Lambino yesterday claimed that their campaign to change the 1987 Constitution through a people's initiative had already garnered the required signatures to make it prosper.

Lambino said the people's initiative campaign has already secured 213 certificates of verification from election officers in the legislative districts all over the country.

He said their group gathered more than 10 million signatures nationwide. Of these, he said, almost seven million have been verified.

"With these signatures, we are now ready to file our petition before the Commission on Elections. If it is acted upon by the Comelec, either it will be upheld or dismissed," Lambino told the INQUIRER.

At least 12 percent of registered voters nationwide and three percent of registered voters from all legislative districts must sign the petition for a people's initiative to succeed.

Nationwide, the people's initiative needs just five million signatures.

But failure to gather three percent in a legislative district even if they gathered 12 percent nationwide would nullified Sigaw's efforts.

"If it is dismissed we go straight to the Supreme Court (to question its dismissal)," he added.

Lambino said Sigaw ng Bayan respected the earlier Supreme Court decision that the people's initiative lacked a sufficient enabling law.

Another bishop named to Melo commish

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS APPOINTED ANOTHER bishop to the independent commission tasked to look into the rash of political killings even as it appealed to critics to stop pressuring those who have been named, including the commission head former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, to back out.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday announced the appointment of Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos to replace Batanes Bishop Camilo Gregorio who declined after initially accepting the appointment.

Gregorio said he did not want to compromise the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines which has taken a critical stance against what it said was the government's tolerance of the political killings. He also said that his time with the commission would eat into his work with his flock in Batanes.

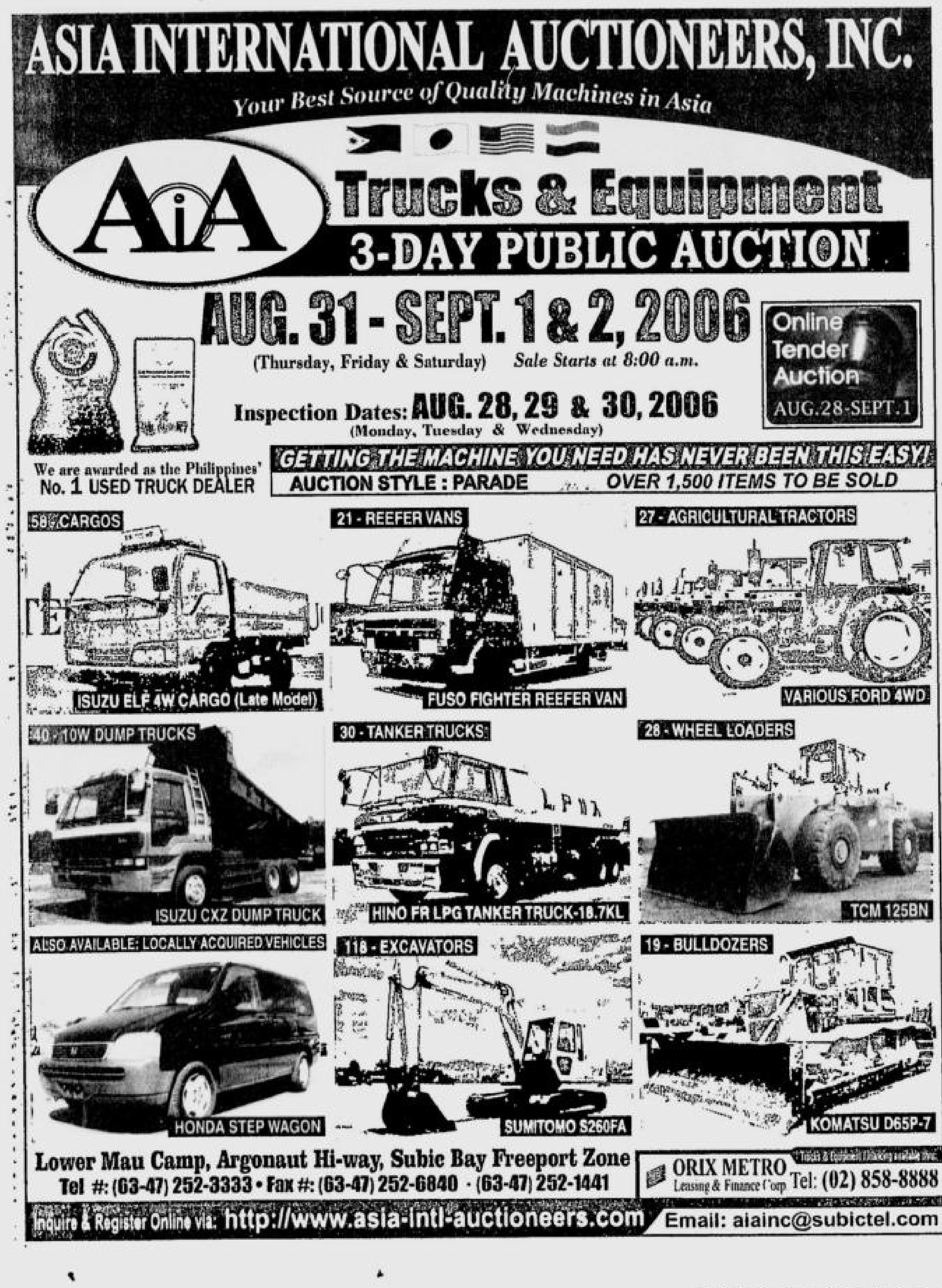
Ermita said Gregorio's departure "will not affect the membership so much because there are a lot of worthy individuals out there who can fill this up."

Congressional, Church and militant leaders have criticized the commission as nothing more than a rubber stamp body meant to clear the President's alleged culpability in the killings.

"If we really want to be serious in covering this issue very well, I think it behooves our responsible citizens, especially those who are requested to join to accept and be counted in trying to resolve the issue. So we should not pressure these people," Ermita told a Palace briefing.

Aside from Melo, the other members of the commission are National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, civic leader and UP Board of Regents member Nelia Teodoro-Gonzalez, and Rogelio Vinluan as general counsel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 157 creating an independent commission to address media and activist killings, with powers to summon witnesses as well as deputize military, police and justice officials to help in its probe. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*



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MISSING TEST LEAKAGE

No need to retake exam, says Palace

MALACAÑANG DOES NOT SEE ANY NEED for the latest batch of registered nurses to again take the licensure examinations unless there is clear proof that cheating occurred in their testing centers.

"We should identify where the leakage was made and those who benefited from the leakage and let them retake the exams. The sin of Pedro should not be the sin of Juan nor the sin of Maria," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said that while it was worth considering to order a retake of the nursing board exams, "it would be unfair to have it imposed on all examinees, especially those in the Visayas and Mindanao."

But Ermita stressed that Malacañang would wait for the National Bureau of Investigation to submit the results of its investigation at the end of the month before deciding what to do amid calls for a wholesale re-examination to salvage the country's reputation.

The cheating scandal in the June nursing exams has tarnished not only the 17,000 examinees but has also cast doubt on the reputation of Filipino nurses deployed overseas.

The Palace has downplayed as an "isolated case" the adverse impact of the scandal even as reports emerged that hospitals have been reluctant to take in the latest batch of registered nurses.

"This is an isolated case and the culprits will be charged and tried and those found guilty punished to the full extent of the law," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"This should not be cause for any stigma on our nurses or other professionals who remain to be among the best in the world. Honesty and professional integrity are eminent traits of the Filipino worker and this is known the world over," Bunye said in a statement.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday asked government hospitals not to discriminate against the latest batch of licensed nurses.

Duque said he would issue a memorandum instructing all 73 hospitals under the Department of Health not to turn away applicants who were in the June batch of examinees.

"We will communicate with hospitals not to prejudge June passers as unqualified," he told reporters.

Duque said an applicant's performance in the licensure exam should not be singled out as the sole criterion for job admission.

He suggested that state hospitals come up with a set of criteria that would also put a premium on matters like an applicant's general weighted average, his or her school's performance in the board exams, and his or her attitude and personality.

To help put the cheating controversy to rest, Duque said examinees should retake Tests 3 and 5, medical/surgical nursing and psychiatric nursing, the areas of the five-part exams directly affected by the leak.

"There should be a cleansing process to recoup whatever credibility was lost in the nursing profession," he said.

An alliance of nurses and nursing students yesterday called for the immediate resignation of all Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) officials and Board of Nursing (BON) members.

Cora Añonuevo, spokesperson of the Alliance of Nurses and Nursing Students Working for Relevant Nursing Education and Practice, said the PRC and BON aggravated the leakage problem by releasing the board exams results pending investigation.

"They said that the oath taking would be suspended, but they ate their own words the next day by starting the administering of oath to individual nurses," said Añonuevo, a professor at the UP College of Nursing.

Añonuevo however clarified that they were leaving the resolution of the matter to the courts.

"We have to push for calls that will unite our sector because the PRC officials are capitalizing on the retake issue and are just happy to see us divided," she said.

A task force investigating the alleged leak in the June nursing board exams yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to invalidate the oaths taken by successful June examinees. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan, Christian V. Esguerra, Alcuin Papa and Margaux C. Ortiz*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'Dream Cities' won't throw in towel for RP dream

UNLIKE NOTED SINGER-COMPOSER Jim Paredes who has migrated to Australia for a taste of the outback, a growing multi-sectoral coalition that includes 21 cities are not about to throw in the towel on the Philippine dream.

"Indeed, there is gnawing hopelessness and cynicism that are pushing Filipinos to give up on their country. We blame the President; we blame the government and its people. But we must also acknowledge that our country is also our very own responsibility. We have to face up to the challenge to become truly one nation," Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao, founder and president of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), said in a press statement.

The former finance chief leads a massive initiative for positive change in public governance "composed of responsible citizens who deeply, truly love their country."

The initiative is expected to gather together leaders of key sectors in society—the youth, academe, business, media, civic and professional organizations, labor, the Church, and the military—and officials from local government units (LGUs) to map out 20- to 25-year plans of comprehensive development for the country and for their respective sectors and cities.

The event—dubbed Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas—is set on Aug. 30 at the Philippine Plaza Hotel. One of the highlights is the unveiling of the "Philippines 2030 Roadmap" and the "Dream Cities."

Estanislao admits it may take three to four generations more for the Philippines to achieve real nationhood. With proper intervention, however, this dream can be attained in at least one generation or about 25 years—thus, the 2030 vision.

ISA, an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization started work with Dream Cities in 2004. These cities are already in various stages of implementing their comprehensive programs called "roadmaps."

ISA used a Harvard-devised business tool called the "balanced scorecard" and applied it on LGUs to track their progress against a key set of targets.

The result is the Public Governance System (PGS) which, not only enables constituents to participate in public governance, but also ensures that programs can be continued regardless of who holds the seat at City Hall.

As of this month, eight cities in the country have been declared "PGS-compliant" after passing ISA's initiation process. These are: Naga City, Marikina City, Calbayog City, Iloilo City, San Fernando City in La Union, San Fernando City in Pampanga, Sorsogon City, and Tagbilaran City. Thirteen other cities are in various stages of PGS institutionalization. Newly initiated are Dagupan, Iriga, Ligao, Panabo, and Tuguegarao City.

"These cities aspire to become places where people dream of living," said Estanislao. "Before 2030, these cities would have achieved the status of being 'Dream Cities' where its citizens live in prosperity in an environment where governance is a shared responsibility between the people and their leaders."

Comelec holds little hope for absentee voters

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE GOVERNMENT efforts to give them more role in the country's politics, more than 90 percent of the estimated eight million Filipinos working abroad would not be able to participate in next year's mid-term elections, according to the Commission on Elections.

Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. said the elections agency, which last week extended up to Sept. 30 the deadline of registration for the overseas absentee voting, was only targeting between 120,000 and 130,000 new registrants.

Low turnout

These will be added to the 364,000 old voters abroad who earlier participated in the 2004 elections. Comelec initially hoped to register about a million new absentee voters but reduced the target owing to low turnout.

Comelec's decision to extend the deadline followed the Supreme Court's recent ruling which gave dual citizens the right to register and vote without having to return to the Philippines.

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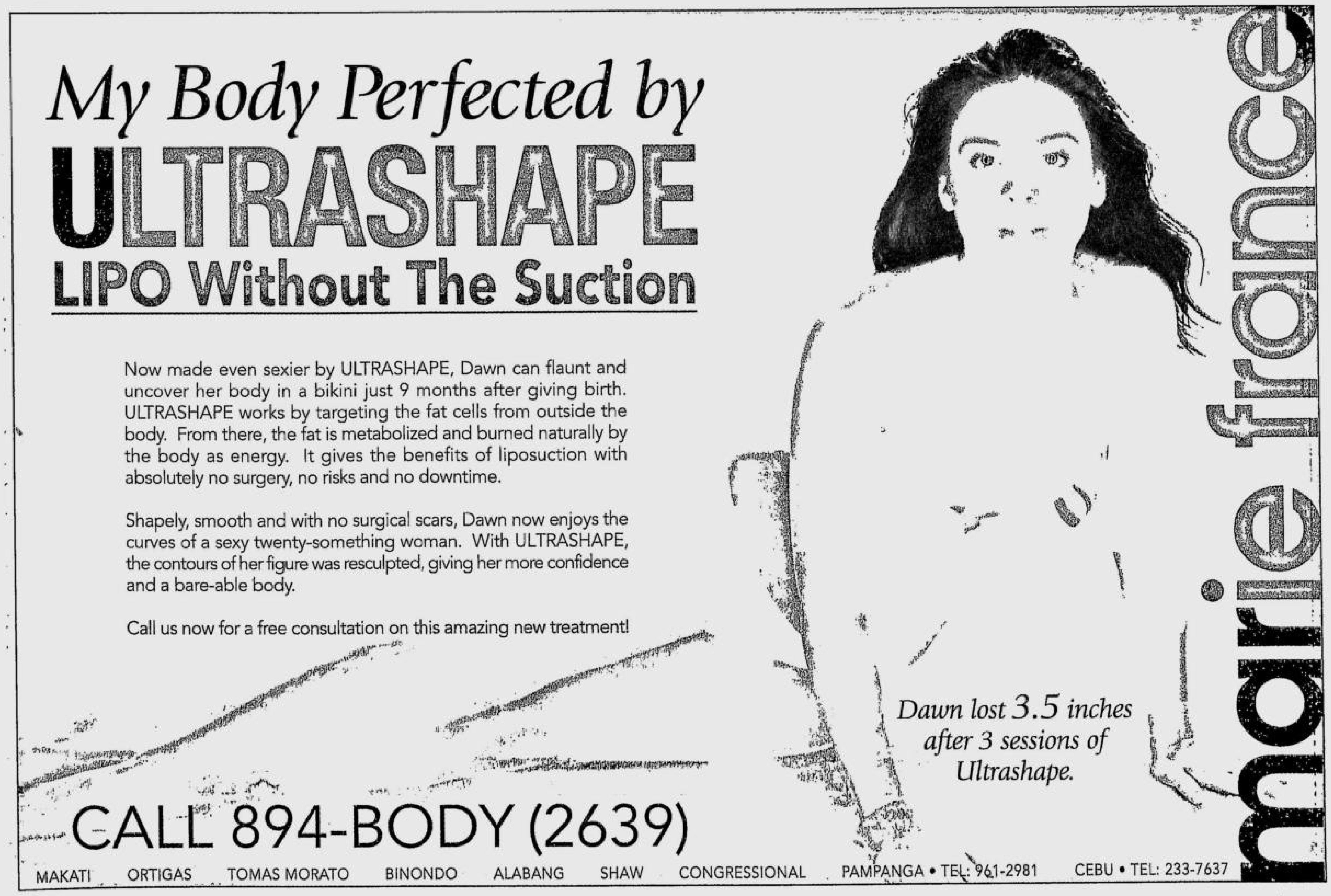

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marie france

NPA bags 29 rifles in Bukidnon raid

From page A1

to the reports fed to us from the field."

Renerio said the NPA guerrillas fled with 15 M-14, 10 Garand and four M-16 rifles.

The NPA maintains a heavy presence in Bukidnon, seizing firearms from various military and police installations every now and then. Last year, for instance, rebels raided the police station in Quezon town and disarmed the policemen on duty.

Zamboanga Sibugay

The attack in Bukidnon was followed by a military report that about 50 guerrillas herded several residents in a coastal village of Kabasalan town in Zamboanga Sibugay province at about 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Susthenes Valcorza, spokesperson of the military's Southern Command based in Zamboanga City, said residents of Sitio Tigbangagan in Barangay Buayan were ordered to converge in one place while the rebels rested, ate lunch and collected medicine for their wounded comrades.

"The NPA rebels gathered the villagers, students, teachers in one area apparently to prevent them from reporting their presence to the police or military," Valcorza said.

The guerrillas left Buayan after two hours without harming anyone, he said.

Valcorza said Army troops were deployed but they failed to find the guerrillas. Other troops went on alert in nearby cities, fearing the rebel presence in Buayan could be a tactic to divert the military's attention ahead of a major attack elsewhere, he said.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Western Mindanao police chief, said the rebels used the villagers as human shields to evade pursuing troops. He said the rebels earlier suffered an undetermined number of casualties in a clash with government troops.

But Brig. Gen. Nestor Ochoa, commander of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, said that contrary to Caringal's report, the rebels only gathered the residents for an assembly. "They got what they wanted so they left the village two hours later," he said.

Communist rebels, who claim to operate in nearly 70 of the country's 79 provinces, broke off from Norwegian-brokered peace talks two years ago to protest the Philippine government's refusal to lobby for their removal from the US and European lists of terrorist groups.

In June, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police and military to wage an all-out campaign to finish off the 7,000-strong NPA, which has been waging a rural-based rebellion for 37 years.

Ms Arroyo's order came amid a spike in rebel attacks on military and police targets which the guerrillas say were partly aimed at capturing badly needed firearms.

Capiz raid

In Capiz, an NPA squad also raided the house of a barangay captain in Dumarao town on Tuesday afternoon and fled with two M-16 and an M-14 assault rifles, aside from a carbine and .45 cal. automatic pistol.

Police said no one was hurt when about 20 rebels, some of whom donned military uniforms, raided the house of Ireneo Harre in Barangay Bungusan.

Senior Supt. Cipriano Querol, Capiz police director, told yesterday's meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council that there were 75 NPA guerrillas operating in the province.

Earlier this week, an NPA squad also raided the house of Roberto Baynosa, barangay captain of Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental, and seized an M-16 rifle.

After raiding Baynosa's house, the rebels went to the houses of village guards Junie Pedros and Jaime Escuerdeo and grabbed their M-16 rifle and 12-gauge shotgun.

The NPA also raided the barangay hall and seized a carbine, Thompson submachine gun, and a radio equipment. *Reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin, Michael F. Sarcauga, Hernan de la Cruz and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; and Felipe V. Celino, Inquirer Visayas*

GMA allies begin burial ceremony for impeach bid

From page A1

mittee chair, sponsored the final report and accompanying resolution dismissing the impeachment complaint, prompted by allegations she stole the 2004 election—a charge she has denied vehemently.

"Perhaps, the most important lesson learned from this political proceedings is not that the advantage of numbers has once again prevailed, but that respect for the greater number is for the greater good is necessary to preserve our present democratic ideas," Datumanong said.

Although accused by the minority of railroading the proceedings, the Maguindanao lawmaker said the committee was "honored and privileged" that it had once again discharged its duty under the Constitution.

"Despite all odds, we have concluded our work with fervor, fairness and faithful adherence to the rules of law. We, however, entertain no illusion that the committee had provided complete answers to the political intrigues," he said.

"The committee cannot provide remedy to such an imperfect system. But let me stress that the committee on justice will never shirk from its responsibility to uphold the rule of law and defend our freedoms."

Basis for decision

Datumanong said that in the determination of the sufficiency of the complaint, "the committee cannot meander outside the periphery of the complaint and its relevant annexes."

He pointed out that the rules were unequivocal that the committee was not allowed to "look outside the complaint," and that the substance "can only be found in the face of the complaint itself and not elsewhere." He said the Supreme Court had ruled that "to determine the sufficiency of the cause of action, only the acts alleged in the complaint, and no others, should be considered."

Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Edcel Lagman, committee vice chair, delivered a separate sponsorship speech, saying that the complaint lodged by citizens groups and endorsed by opposition lawmakers was "not only dead on arrival."

"It is not only a classic case of a suicide and a cadaver of a complaint. After a prolonged wake, where its fatal infirmities were concealed by the embalmer's makeup and obscured by propagandists' incantations, it will shortly be consigned six feet underground where it properly belongs," said Lagman.

The committee report acknowledged that this year's attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo "surpassed the record" last year in which three complaints had been filed against the President.

8 serial complaints

"For the first time in history, eight serial complaints for impeachment against a respondent President had been filed and referred to the committee," it said.

The report said that all of the first seven impeachment complaints, which were filed between June 26 and July 26, had been dismissed because they were initiated within the one-year bar rule against the same impeachable official.

All eight complaints contained the same charges which sought to unseat Ms Arroyo for allegedly manipulating balloting in 2004, muzzling dissent, abetting extrajudicial killings and receiving "jueteng" kickbacks.

But while the eight complaints were identical, it was important that the committee "establish definitive jurisprudence on the application of the one-year bar rule given the historic precedent that an incumbent President of the Republic is the respondent in impeachment proceedings for two consecutive years."

The committee said that only the eighth complaint filed by the Black and White Movement on July 27, 2006 was "the only impeachment complaint seasonably initiated after the expiration of the one-year bar rule."

However, the committee explained that it had resolved to dismiss the remaining complaint because, "while sufficient in form, (it) is not sufficient in substance."

Requirement of sufficiency

To define substance, the committee quoted Section 4 of Rule 3 of the Rules on Procedures in impeachment proceedings of the 13th Congress: "The requirement of sufficiency in substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the committee."

The report said the minority could have learned the lessons from the first failed impeachment complaint against the President.

"It had only one year to seek the amendment of the rules on impeachment proceedings to ensure a process to support its anticipated renewed attempt at impeaching the incumbent President."

Missed opportunity

The report said the minority—if it really wanted to introduce evidence prior to voting on the substance—should have adopted a majority-sponsored amendment of the impeachment rules in 2005.

However, the minority "rejected" the proposal put forth by Lagman which "would have allowed the presentation of evidence at the stage of determination of ... substance."

"Verily, the opposition have only themselves to blame. They suggested the rules, they must, perforce, play by the Rules," said Lagman.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition "offered the President a way to move on by answering the allegations" but lost the opportunity to remove the cloud of doubt over her 2004 election.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano added: "It's clear to us that they will stick to party lines and vote in accordance with the administration wishes to end this process without looking at the evidence."

Cayetano said the opposition was "least afraid" that it had failed twice to impeach the President.

"We are more afraid of a failed constitutional process of holding the President liable for culpable violations of the Constitution, graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust. Now, there are no more legal or constitutional processes available to hold the President liable," he stressed.

Opposition leaders have threatened to press demands to remove the President in the streets and others have warned of moves to resort to extralegal means to force her out.

SC slams door on use of poll counting machines

From page A1

the alleged graft and deprive the government of the chance to recover millions from the P1.3-billion poll automation deal.

In an 11-page en banc resolution, the court asked all parties to respect its 2004 resolution nullifying the contract, saying it was "final and executory."

"Wherefore, the court resolves to deny the omnibus motion for its patent lack of merit. All parties are directed to abide by and strictly follow the decision, resolutions and orders of this court," said the court in a resolution signed by Clerk of Court Ma. Luisa Villarama.

The Supreme Court's junking of Macalintal's petition dashed hopes for the automation of next year's mid-term elections, according to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

"What can we do now? It was not us who filed the petition, but this puts a final blow to the hope of using the machines. This puts an end to everyone's dream of having a computerized election [in 2007]," Abalos told reporters, referring to the high tribunal's ruling.

He said it was also already too late to get Congress' approval for a new ACM technology.

The chair and other commissioners earlier recommended the adoption of a paperless ballot and counting method as being practiced in India and demonstrated last year by visiting Indian election officials.

While the Comelec supported Macalintal's petition, the poll body had nothing to do with it, according to Abalos.

Palace backed petition

Malacañang also supported Macalintal's petition.

"The automation of the elections is one of the 10-point agenda of the government and this petition will help us move closer to achieving that goal," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said on Aug. 7 at a government-sponsored breakfast forum.

Macalintal, President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer, had filed a motion for intervention in the complaint lodged by the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP) against the Comelec, in his capacity as taxpayer.

He sought a public testing and use of 1,991 units of ACMs in the 2007 elections, saying that these had been found to be 100-percent efficient by the Department of Science and Technology.

In its ruling scrapping the controversial P1.3-billion contract between the Comelec and Mega Pacific eSolutions, the Supreme Court said the counting machines were vulnerable "to election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few key strokes."

The court voided the Comelec's contract with Mega Pacific after it found that the poll body violated the law and its own bidding rules when it awarded the contract.

Glaring deficiencies

The Supreme Court had cited three glaring deficiencies of the counting machines:

- Failure to achieve "the accuracy rating criteria of 99.9995 percent" set by the Comelec itself.
- Failure to detect "previously downloaded results" at various canvassing or consolidation levels and to prevent these from being inputted again.
- Failure to print the "statutorily required audit trails of the count and canvass at different levels without any loss of data."

The high court said the Comelec's own bids and awards committee had noted that Mega Pacific's ACMs were not able to detect previously downloaded precinct results.

In its Aug. 22 ruling, which was released yesterday, the Supreme Court said granting Macalintal's motion "would effectively overturn the court's findings and conclusions in its final and executory decision."

"In that event, it would in effect be recognizing that the machines and the software program were viable after all, despite unchanged circumstances," it said, pointing to the fact that there could not have been improvements made on the ACMs since the time the court ruled that they "failed to pass legally mandated technical requirements."

Idle and unused

"In other words, they have merely remained idle and unused since their last evaluation in which they failed to hurdle crucial tests. Thus, again we say, the ACMs were not good enough for either the 2004 elections or for the 2005 ARMM [Autonomous Region in Muslin Mindanao] polls; why should they be good enough for the 2007 elections, considering that nothing has been done to correct the legal, jurisprudential and technical flaws underscored in our final and executory decision?" the court said.

"Likewise, we repeat that no matter how many times the machines were retested, if nothing was done about the programming defects and deficiencies, the same danger of massive electoral fraud remains," the tribunal said.

The Supreme Court said granting Macalintal's petition "would be an admission that the court made a horrible mistake, and that Comelec's impugned acts were above board, reasonable and valid."

It said that to allow the use of the ACM's would "validate" the contract with Mega Pacific and "thus remove all grounds for any action to recover the public funds expended for the flawed ACMs."

Nonsensical

Allowing the use of the machines would also "render nugatory" the investigations being done by the Office of the Ombudsman for the purpose of filing criminal charges against Comelec officials allegedly involved in the questionable bidding for the project.

"Thus, the court found it completely unacceptable to place its imprimatur on the void and illegal transaction that would seriously endanger our electoral system. (Macalintal's) simplistic proposal to use the illegally procured, demonstrably defective and fraud-prone ACMs is simply nonsensical," the court said.

Ironically, the court cited the Poe v. Arroyo case—where Macalintal represented Ms Arroyo—to point out that Macalintal has no legal personality to represent the interest of taxpayers in the case, the same way that Susan Roces had no right to intervene in the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s electoral case.

In that decision, the court said it ruled that "the interest which allows a person to intervene in a suit must be in the matter of litigation and of such direct and immediate character that the intervenor will either gain or lose by the effect of the judgment."

It also said it could not entertain further motions following its final rulings, lest "there would be no end to litigations."

Ombudsman to end probe

Also yesterday, the Office of the Ombudsman ended its "clarificatory hearings" on the culpability of Comelec officials, including Abalos, in the failed poll automation contract.

Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro said the panel, which was directed by the Supreme Court to investigate the criminal liability of election officials and the possible connivance with private individuals, ended the investigations because "there seemed to be no more resource speakers available, including the complainants who failed to appear despite several invitations."

"After hearing the presentations of IT experts from the Department of Science and Technology, some individuals from private participating companies in the consortium, we are now ready to issue the resolution on or before Sept. 30, the deadline set by the Supreme Court," Casimiro said.

At the hearing yesterday, officials from the Comelec and Mega Pacific gave PowerPoint presentations detailing their defense.

Jose Tolentino, Comelec deputy executive director for operations and project manager of automation, presented proof saying the bidding was valid and regular and that the consortium put up by private companies was legal and eligible, and that the machines are 100-percent accurate.

He added that the contract was advantageous to the government, having resulted in savings of "at least P40 million and P2 billion at most."

National Achievement Test

	Top schools	Mean percentage score
1.	Rizal National High School, Tomas Oppus, Southern Leyte	81.48
2.	Marayag National High School, San Francisco, Southern Leyte	79.07
3.	Pintuyan National Vocational High School, Pintuyan, Southern Leyte	78.69
4.	Lipa City National Science High School	78.18
5.	Sta Margarita National High School, Samar	77.58
6.	Garing National High School, Cebu	77.42
7.	Limasawa National High School, Southern Leyte	77.41
8.	Sta. Paz, Southern Leyte	77.25
9.	Batangas High School For Culture	77.18
10.	Sta Rita National High School, Samar	77.13
11.	Banban Binabag High School, Cebu	77.07
12.	Allen National Science High School (Balicuatro), Northern Samar	77.02
13.	Alegria National High School, Northern Samar	77.00
14.	San Antonio Agricultural and Vocational High School, North Samar	76.30
15.	Concepcion National High School, Southern Leyte	76.57
16.	San Luis National High School-La Vinga, Agusan del Sur	76.27
17.	Divisoria National High School, Southern Leyte	76.23
18.	Calape National High School, Bohol	76.16
19.	Sto Nino National High School, Samar	75.88
20.	Batangas High School	75.87
21.	San Isidro National High School, Siargao	75.82
22.	Mercedes High School, Eastern Samar	75.81
23.	Vinapor National High School, Agusan del Norte	75.79
24.	San Vicente ISS, Agusan del Norte	75.75
25.	Lawaan National High School, Samar	75.68
26.	Nagbalayong High School, Bataan	75.64
27.	Caraga Regional High School, Surigao City	75.63
28.	Tominamos Integrated High School, Samar	75.62
29.	San Isidro National High School, Southern Leyte	75.55
30.	Victoria National High School, Northern Samar	75.42

Source: DepEd Southern Leyte

S. Leyte public high schools rule national examinations

From page A1

School, Malitbog, 76.60 MPS at 15th; Divisoria National High School, Bontoc, 76.23 MPS at 17th and San Isidro National High School, Tomas Oppus, 75.55 MPS at 29th.

"We are happy and proud of our students and teachers at the Department of Education Southern Leyte division," Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Prioritizing education in the province's leadership may have borne fruit with the feat of our students," Lerias said.

ADB beneficiaries

Southern Leyte consistently topped in the implementation of TEEP (Third Elementary Education Program) and SEDIP (Secondary Education Development Implementation Program) among the five provinces in the country that are beneficiaries of the Asian Development Bank-funded education program.

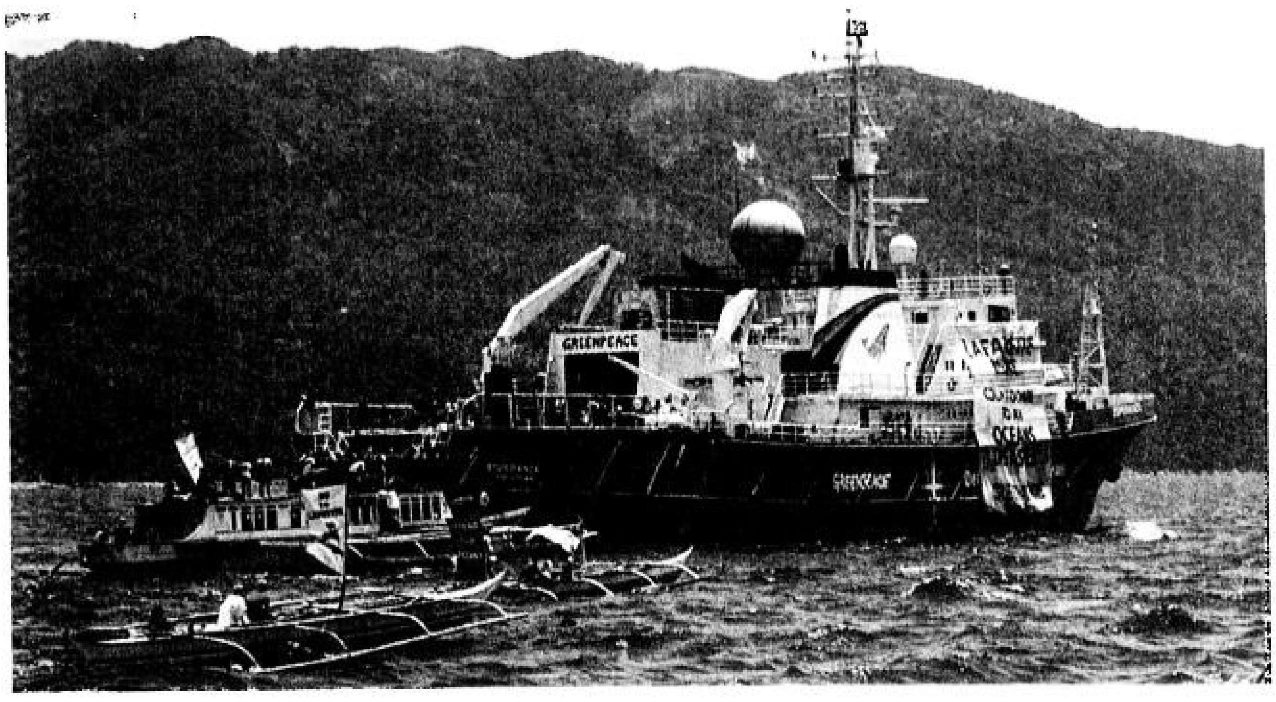
In a radio interview, DepEd Southern Leyte Division Superintendent Violeta Alocilja said that the outstanding rating achieved by the schools made Southern Leyte the top among the 175 education divisions of the country with a rating of 68.07 percent.

"We were only seven points shy from our target of 75 percent. We were the only school division in the region going beyond average. Eastern Visayas' average was 54.39 percent in mean percentage points," Alocilja said. "Let us all pray that the children will continue to perform their best."

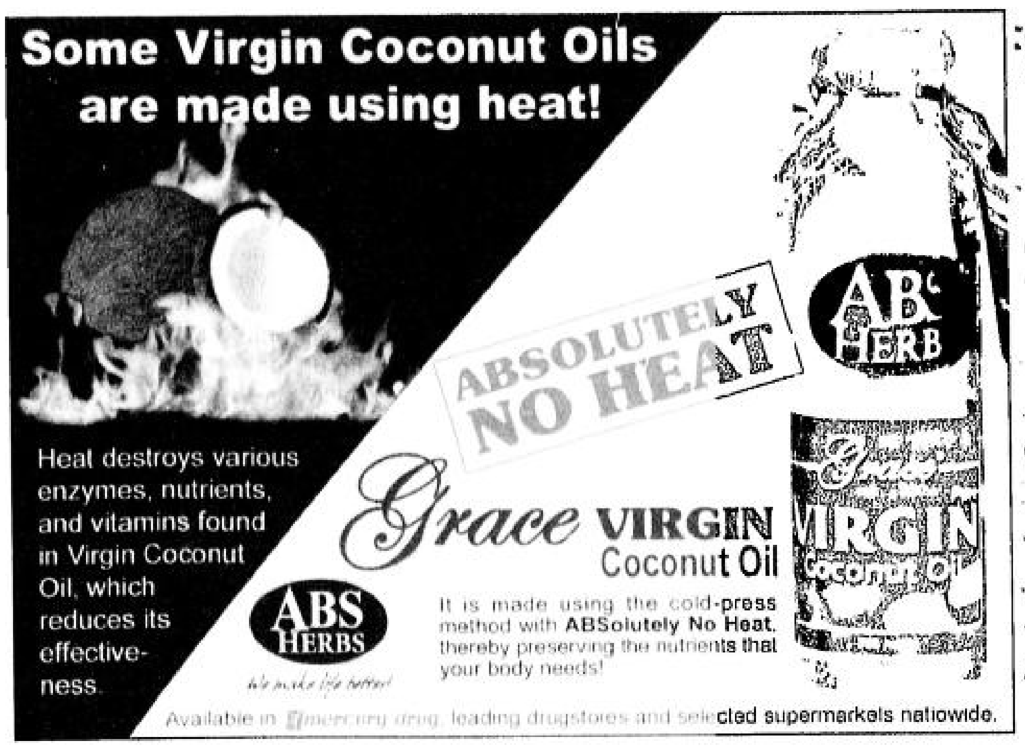
The names and ranking of the elementary schools have yet to be clarified, she added.

Of the top 30 schools in the country, 18 came from Eastern Visayas, with Southern Leyte getting eight places.

The feat made Eastern Visayas the top regional division nationwide. For five years in a row Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) sustained its No. 1 ranking in the NAT.



PROTEST FLOTILLA
While an actual marine disaster is wreaking havoc on Guimaras Strait, Greenpeace vessel Esperanza is warning of another catastrophe off Bicol, leading yesterday's protest flotilla of a few boats to stop the test runs being undertaken by Lafayette mining in Rapu Rapu island. Greenpeace officials presented a statement to the mining company's officials. REM ZAMORA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RP contingent to Lebanon: Non-combat troops, medics

THE PHILIPPINES IS LIKELY TO SEND "NON-combat" troops as well as medical workers to Lebanon, where the UN is trying to muster an international force to serve as a buffer between Israel and the Hezbollah militia.

"We are 70 to 80 percent sure of sending a peacekeeping force" once the UN makes a formal request for contributions, said Jesus Domingo, head of the liaison office of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

However, Domingo said the country's participation would be limited to "the humanitarian aspect, meaning our troops will only engage in medical, engineering and administrative roles and not on security."

With the military and police also engaged in fighting communist guerrillas and Islamic militants at home, the government may resort to mobilizing military reservists for deployment to Lebanon, he said.

This would mark the first time that Filipino military reserves would be used in peacekeeping operations abroad, Domingo said, adding the government was also planning to send doctors, nurses and social workers to Lebanon.

During the 34 days of fighting, several thousand of the estimated 36,000 Filipino workers in Lebanon fled the country and returned home.

The government has also contacted non-government agencies as well as the health and social welfare departments to muster volunteer medical and social workers for Lebanon deployment.

The Philippines is the 26th largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, official figures show, with nearly 600 deployed in Haiti, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Liberia, Sudan and East Timor. *AFP*

RP coco week launched today

PHILIPPINE COCONUT WEEK WILL BE launched today with an exhibition of coconut food and natural products at Megatrade Hall II, SM Megamall.

Organized by the Philippine Coconut Authority with the theme of "May Bilog sa Niyog" (There's money in coconut), the exhibition and sale showcase the growth of the coconut livelihood industry in light of developments in the world health food market.

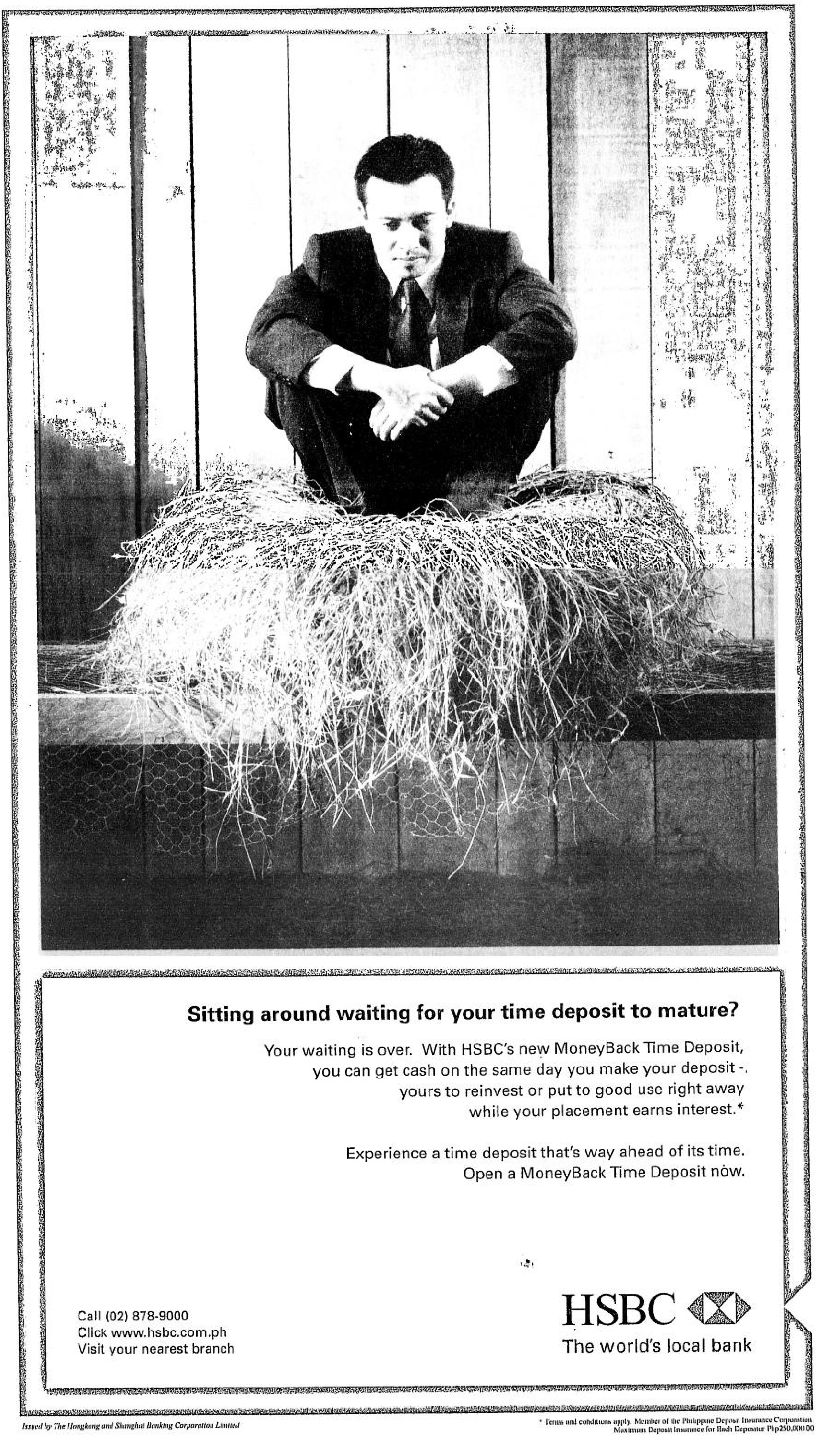
Focus of public interest is still on developments in virgin coconut oil (VCO) as the emerging health food product comprises 20 of 110 booths.

One of the VCO exhibitors has gotten Leo Oracion, acknowledged as the first Filipino to scale Mt. Everest, to endorse the use of VCO for tropical skin screen against damaging sun rays and the dehydrating cold winds of Mt. Everest. He and his team is now preparing for the next expedition that will include the first women mountaineers as members in July, 2007.

Oracion will be present at the ProSource booth on Saturday to have pictures taken with mountaineering aficionados.

Tess Santos, VCO Philippines president, said the association of VCO producers is holding a Medical Forum on "VCO is For All Ages" on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at the Megatrade Seminar Room B.

To speak on the medical benefits of VCO in their respective field are endocrinologist and pediatrician Dr. Arthur Ludan, geriatrician Dr. Eliza P. Francisco, and dermatologist Dr. Vermen Verallo-Rowell. Moderating the medical forum is cardiologist Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit. The host is fitness columnist Cory Quirino.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Lack of national security policy imperils the country

From page A1

and shamelessly proclaiming in various local and international fora that they are fully committed to stifle insurgency and terrorism.

Yet, the Philippines today is the only country in Asia without a national security policy or an antiterrorism law.

The Ramos administration on Sept. 22, 1992, naively repealed the country's only national security law, Republic Act No. 1700, otherwise known as the Anti-Subversion Law.

The repeal decriminalized subversive organizations and created a security vacuum.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, flexed its muscles. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) experienced a resurgence, gave birth to the extremist Abu Sayyaf and allowed the intrusion of al-Qaida terrorists.

Antiquated code

To combat subversion, rebellion and other security threats, the government relies on the antiquated Revised Penal Code.

For instance, Article 147 of the Code penalizes subversive and rebellious acts for only six years in prison, in its minimum and medium terms, and imposes a fine not exceeding P1,000.

With 15,000 Moro separatists and 7,000 communist guerrillas, the Philippines now has the world's biggest number of armed rebels—labelled terrorists by the United States and the European Union. They total 22,000.

The combined rebel strength is the equivalent of 44 light infantry battalions or about 27 percent of the Army's total strength of 81,000 officers and men.

The police and military organizations are top heavy with identical multi-layered command structures which are complex, confusing and expensive to maintain.

Security spending

The Arroyo administration since 2001 has spent more than P600 billion for these organizations. But there's no end in sight to security problems.

Ms Arroyo's predecessors, Corazon Aquino (1986-1992), spent for the military P70,775,303,000; Fidel V. Ramos (1992-1998), P210,395,454,000; and Joseph Estrada (1998-2001), P86 billion.

For the police, Aquino used up for the same period P44,273,704,000; Ramos P85,319,818,000; and Estrada P42 billion.

Altogether, the three presidents spent P538,764,279,000.

If the P29.232-billion police and P41.825-billion military budgets for 2001 were included, the total would be a whopping P609,821,279,000. This was P121,821,279,000 bigger than the P488 billion accumulated budgets of the entire Marcos regime in 20 years.

Enormous debts and poverty

One critical issue in national security is the enormous foreign and domestic debt estimated at more than P5 trillion. Such a huge liability hinders economic growth, worsens poverty and has the potential of triggering a political and social upheaval.

Poverty may not turn the poor into terrorists, but a weak country is vulnerable to terrorism.

Another factor in the security configuration is the country's dependence on Middle East oil.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), commands such strategic waterways as the Straits of Malacca, Sunda, Lombok and Macassar which Japan and other East Asian countries' oil and other trade must move.

Withdrawal from coalition

Through its security alliances, Asean acts as the buffer against terrorist attack and other threats. The potential for terrorist disruption of vital political, social and economic interests in the region and the Middle East is formidable and has far-reaching implications on the Philippines.

For instance, lack of an energy contingency plan and the continued rise of the cost of oil imports can plunge the country into social and economic chaos—a situation that can be avoided if a cohesive national security strategy is in place.

The government is also now paying heavily for its abrupt withdrawal from the Coalition of the Willing in Iraq in 2004 that seriously damaged its credibility as a security ally of the United States, Japan and Australia, among other countries.

The government's lack of understanding that it bound itself to the coalition's principles that "no cause justifies terror and blackmail" had put the country in an unpleasant situation. This policy lapse by the Arroyo administration may take years to mend.

The Bush administration has embodied these principles in the nine-point US National Security Strategy which clearly underscores the US position that it will not make concessions to terrorist demands and strike no deals with them.

It does not make any distinction, either, between terrorists and those who knowingly harbor or provide aid to them.

Punishment

No coalition member violates these principles and gets away unpunished. Punishment can come in the form of limited economic sanctions, i.e., lowering of credit ratings, tightening of labor and immigration laws (as what happened in Japan), no debt restructuring, etc.

Before and after Sept. 11, 2001, the commitment of the US government to fight terrorism and corruption assumed a new sense of national security priority and direction which the Philippine government had failed to anticipate.

According to the US Department of State, terrorists thrive on corruption. Corrupt officials, knowingly and unknowingly, aid terrorists by facilitating the laundering of funds and illicit trade of weapons, passports, drugs and people. Terrorists also use bribes to obtain sensitive information from government sources. Corruption can facilitate terrorism by helping terrorists move across borders and find safe havens.

With this important correlation, the US Congress in 2000-2001 passed the appropriate laws required to intercept and obstruct terrorism (Patriot Act) and the International Anticorruption and Good Governance Act (IAGGA).

The IAGGA law aims "to ensure that US assistance programs promote good governance by assisting other countries to combat corruption throughout society and to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels of government."

It is interesting to see if the IAGGA law could be applied to Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, one of the controversial officials of the Arroyo administration. *(To be continued.)*

Digital Age pushing Burnham photographers to edge of extinction

From page A1

Burnham Park here.

For decades, tourists had always found the best memories of this mountain resort frozen for life in 135-mm film shots taken by the park photographers. Now, computer technology is exacting its toll on their livelihood.

Oscar Barrozo, one of the six pioneers of the business in the 1960s, said the shutterbugs had been informed by studios that manufacturers would cut, if not totally stop, production of 135-mm films and camera equipment due to the market success of digital photography.

More expensive cameras

Dealers confirmed these moves recently when Kodak gave them a crash course seminar on digital imaging, Barrozo said. In 2004, Kodak announced that it would slow down production of 135-mm films, a local franchise holder said.

Barrozo, 62, said the dealers tried to sell them the idea of pursuing their trade using more expensive digital cameras.

"But we won't sacrifice the food on our table paying camera dealerships each day, so we are sticking to our old cameras and we will wait until the supply runs out," he said.

Professional photographer Tommy Hafalla said the market shift was also hurting his trade. Hafalla is best known for documenting indigenous peoples in the Cordillera in black and white film shot with manual cameras.

He said studios and photography suppliers had informed him that American and European manufacturers no longer considered manufacturing silver-laced film stock cost effective compared to producing digital cameras.

The resulting supply gaps will eventually increase prices of film stock, he said.

"I buy 100 feet of black-and-white film, which used to cost P1,493 but which now sells for P3,200," he said.

The shift to electronic products has changed more than just the retail market.

Digital scanners

The supervisor of a commercial studio selling YKL films observed a growing trend to replace traditional computer-administered film processing equipment with machines to scan or print digital images caught by digital cameras.

Many studios have also started "clearing-out sales" for stocks of automatic cameras that use 135-mm film. Some cameras go for as low as P1,200.

Many of the park shutterbugs, whom locals fondly refer to as the "Burnham photographers," said the Digital Age had destroyed a livelihood that reached its peak between 1975 and 1978.

During that period, tourists used to hire them for P1 a frame. Barrozo said the original black-and-white film stock was used, and one peso then was already a big amount because earnings each day paid their children's tuition and three meals a day.

The park photographers began with Barrozo, Ricardo Mabanglo, Carlos Cabillan, Armand Rantayo and Ruperto Agas. Studio owner Domingo Garcia joined the group by occasionally touring the park with them to offer their services to tourists, Barrozo said.

Dwindling demand

Nowadays, tourists come with their own digital cameras or mobile telephones equipped with 1.3 megapixel cameras.

The Burnham photographers have been scraping the bottom of a dwindling demand in the last five years. They earn P200 a day during peak tourist seasons (summer and Christmas), but these days, they often go home with only P50 in their pockets.

"There may be some sense in going digital. We spend P25 every time we process a whole roll, and we spend P4 printing each frame and hopefully each frame will earn us P50. With digital, studios and dealers tell us they will only charge us P10 for printing each digital image," Barrozo said.

"But that's still more expensive. We have to buy P20,000 worth of cameras and we must spend P10 for each frame when I only spend P180 for a potential revenue of P1,750 using my manual camera," he said.

He said the old technology already gave him an advantage. A 35-mm Olympus, issued in the 1950s, shoots half frames, and it has been handy for small school contracts requiring him to shoot ID portraits "because I can stretch a roll of 36 frames into 75 frames," Barrozo said.

He said the Burnham lensmen had been competing with studios for graduation, wedding and school ID contracts, but there were just too many of them sharing the pie.

"If what we hear is true, we only have five years before we disappear from this park," he said.

Wholesale Electricity Spot Market

Philippine Electricity Market Corporation
18th Floor Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines 1600
Trunk Line: +632 631-8734
Fax: +632 631-4085

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. The **Philippine Electricity Market Corporation** (the "PEMC") is inviting proposals for: (1) directors and officers liability insurance; and (2) professional indemnity insurance proposal.
2. The PEMC is a non-stock, non-profit organization which was incorporated to administer and govern the **Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market** (the "WESM"). The WESM is established pursuant to Republic Act No. 9136 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (the "EPIRA").
3. Proponents may be insurance companies or insurance agents or brokers duly licensed to do business as such in the Philippines. (The term "proponent" or "applicant" as used in this document and its attachments shall refer to the insurance company being represented by a broker or agent, and not to the broker or agent.)
4. The proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes to-

MR. LASSI-MATTI A. HOLOPAINEN
President
Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC)
18th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower
Ortigas, Pasig City
Telephone 395-2699
Telefax 636-0873

not later than close of PEMC's business day on **October 4, 2006.** All proposals must include all the required information and documents.

Late or incomplete proposals shall be rejected and returned to the proponent.

5. The proponents shall be guided by the Term of Reference attached to this Request in preparing and submitting their respective proposals. Proponents are enjoined to read the Terms of Reference closely.
6. Clarifications on the terms of reference or procedures of this solicitation as well as requests for copy of this Request for Proposal and attachments may be addressed to-

ELIZABETH F. LUMASAC
Vice President Corporate Services Group
Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC)
18th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower
Ortigas, Pasig City
Telephone 395-2705
Telefax 631-8734 loc 264
Email eflumasac@wesm.ph

Requests for clarifications and copies shall be entertained if made prior to the deadline for submission of proposal.

7. Proposals shall have a validity of sixty (60) days from date of deadline for submission of proposals. PEMC may, at its option, request clarificatory meetings with any of the proponents.
8. Results of the solicitation shall be announced on October 31, 2006, or on such other date as will be announced later.
9. PEMC reserves the right to negotiate, and contract with, any of the proponents that it deems suitable for the award.

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Palace-Senate row imperils new budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

CONTINUING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN senators and congressmen threaten yet again the passage of a supplemental budget sought by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The House majority yesterday decided to stop plenary deliberations on the proposed supplemental budget of P46.4 billion for 2006 after Sen. Franklin Drilon issued a statement saying the Senate was planning to slash the proposed budget by over P2 billion.

At a press conference, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said he had already dispatched Albay Rep. Joey Salceda to do "back-chanelling" in an effort to mend fences with senators critical of the President.

Nograles' displeasure

Nograles did not hide his displeasure over the statement of Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, on Tuesday that the upper house was considering to cut the P1.3 billion government subsidy to the Metro Rail Transit and the P750 million allocation for the hiring of 700 new firemen and jail guards.

Drilon explained that the MRT subsidy was not in the proposed 2006 national budget which Congress failed to approve in June.

The House plenary was scheduled to approve in toto the supplemental budget late Tuesday but later decided to hold off further deliberations.

Asked what prompted the deferment, Nograles told reporters: "It's useless to proceed if the senators have a closed mind. Unless the House and the Senate narrow down their differences, and agree on a common ground. Otherwise, it's like the archived 2006 budget all over again."

The majority chief called on the Senate to reveal the "real score" amid concerns by congressmen that the House might only be wasting time by approving a supplemental budget that would not be acceptable to the senators.

"There are those (in the Senate) advocating for a P2-billion cut, and I don't think that would sit well with Congress," said Nograles.

However, Drilon's counterpart, Salceda, remained optimistic, saying "The impression (generated by Drilon's statement) is not as violent as it seems."

"We will rely on the statesmanship of the Senate," said Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia and other leaders of the House of Representatives formally received the P1.127 trillion proposed national budget for 2007 yesterday afternoon from Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. on behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

7 percent increase

The Speaker told reporters the proposed budget represents an increase of about 7 percent, or P83 billion, over the shelved 2006 budget.

He congratulated the President and Andaya for crafting a budget that "dramatically increases the amounts available for education and capital expenditures."

De Venecia said next year's budget took into account the "dramatic improvement in the fiscal position of the government as a result of the actions by the President and of the House of Representatives, the Congress of the Philippines, with the approval of the expanded value-added tax law that has generated in excess of P70 to a P100 billion (this year)."

He was hopeful the budget would be approved before Christmas.

Leftists in media pose risks – Palace

MALACAÑANG IS taking seriously National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' warning that communists have broken into Philippine media.

"It's a cause for concern. If we know who they are, we should make sure that they do not commit any overt act that violates the Revised Penal Code," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in a briefing. "For as long as they are not committing any violation, anybody who is left of center can go about their activities. That is my only reminder."

But Ermita did not say whether the government has launched any specific action to ferret out the alleged communists among media men.

Gonzales had previously warned that some staff members of broadsheets, tabloids and broadcast stations might have been sympathizers or were paid to push for Leftist goals in their work.

Ermita concurred with Gonzales that rising communist influence in the country's newsrooms pose a security risk. "Mass media is a potent force in government. (What the Left) cannot win in combat, they try to win by propaganda," said Ermita.

Celebs take quit-smoking challenge

By Nikko Dizon

PERHAPS HARDER than being on a TV reality show, four celebrities have taken on the challenge to kick their smoking habit within 40 days.

Amanda Griffin, Rica Peralejo, Vitto Lazatin and Epy Quizon are also probably the very first Filipino celebrities to openly talk about their addiction to nicotine.

Armed with a quit diary, a piggy bank to measure their savings from not buying cigarettes, and a whole load of determination, the four are participating in the "Kick It! Beat It!" quit smoking advocacy campaign of pharmaceutical company Pfizer in support of the smoking cessation program of the Department of Health (DOH).

The challenge begins today and will end on Oct. 1.

Studies have shown that 40 days is the sufficient time to help smokers quit, and already includes the period for withdrawal symptoms, said Dr. Salvador Castaneda, Pfizer medical consultant for tobacco dependence.

Griffin, Peralejo, Lazatin and Quizon, who all have been smoking for years, are hoping that they could inspire other smokers—young and old—to quit as well.

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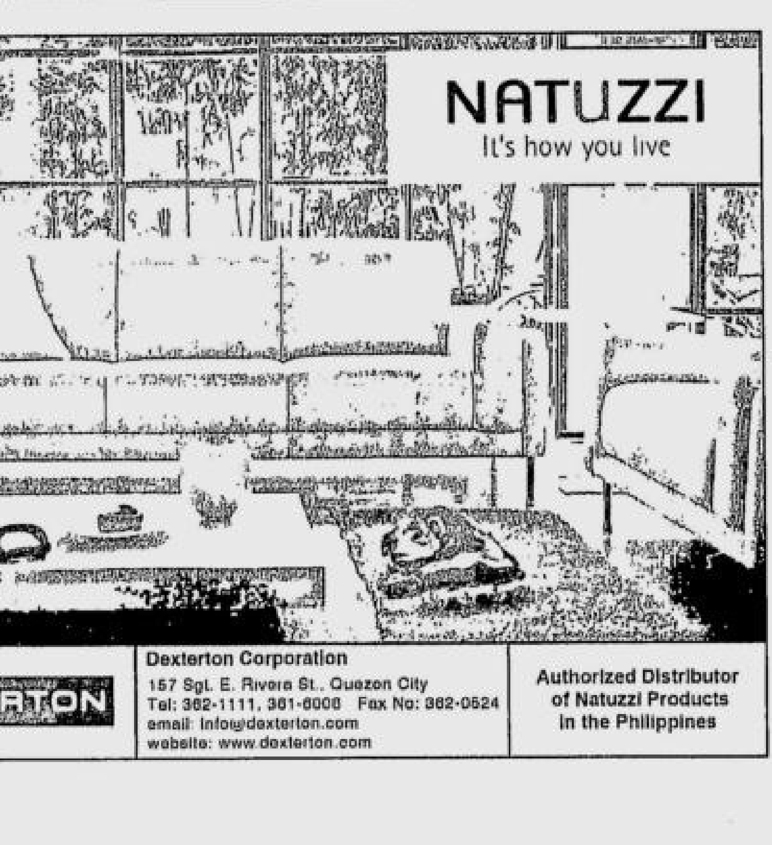
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Gov't urged to tap Subic firm's submersible craft in Guimaras cleanup

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—WHILE THE GOVernment is looking elsewhere to find equipment to contain the massive oil spill in Guimaras Strait, a submersible remote operated vehicle (ROV) is available here waiting to be tapped.

A ship with an ROV, which can go down to the ocean floor and send video footage to the controller, is docked at the former ship repair facility, according to Australian diver and archeologist Brian Homan.

"The submersible ROV that is on board the cable retriever ship can do the preliminary inspection of the leak in the tanks (of the sunken tanker) and send information that can help the government identify ways to repair the damage and remove the oil," Homan told the INQUIRER.

The cable retriever ship is owned by Global Marines, a marine technology and engineering company based in United Kingdom. The firm has made Subic its home port in the Asia-Pacific region.

Homan, who has been working for the National Museum for more than 20 years, said it was important to immediately send the cable retriever ship to Guimaras Strait to inspect the sunken tanker.

"Subic Bay is just 200 nautical miles from Guimaras and the ship can reach the location within 24 hours. To bring in another vessel from Singapore will take several more days to mobilize," he said.

The ROV can lay cables in deep or shallow waters and retrieve, repair and return them to the bottom of the ocean. It has arms, clamps, lights and cameras designed to record features of sunken ships.

SBMA chief open to idea

But the ROV cannot bring the tanker to the surface.

"The most appropriate thing to do now is to consider this measure and prevent further oil spill," Homan said. "It is up to the government to ask the company that owns the cable retriever ship for help."

He said he had spoken with Feliciano Salonga, chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and broached the idea of tapping the cable retriever ship for the cleanup operations in Guimaras.

"For me this is just a bit of advice: I told them that this is the best move but SBMA officials are the ones to decide on this matter," Homan said.

Homan was involved in the recovery of a FedEx plane that overshot Subic's runway and submerged into 30 feet of water near the shoreline.

"That was just a simple recovery," he said. "But since I work for the National Museum, I had several experiences in retrieving ancient ships."

Homan had recovered relics off the coast of Mindoro, Marinduque, Palawan and Sulu since 1983.

"Many people have asked me about my opinion on this oil spill in Guimaras. I just told them that the best move is to ask the company that owns the cable retriever ship to do an inspection of the sunken tanker," he said.

SBMA officials met on Tuesday and considered asking the company that leases the cable retriever ship for help.

Malampaya Corp. ROV

Former SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the government could also ask the Malampaya Corp. to lend its submersible ROV for the operation.

"Both the ROV and the cable retriever ship do a lot more complicated tasks. The Malampaya ship laid the oil pipeline from Palawan to Batangas while the cable retriever vessel repairs the trans-ocean cable lines that get damaged on the ocean floor," Payumo said.

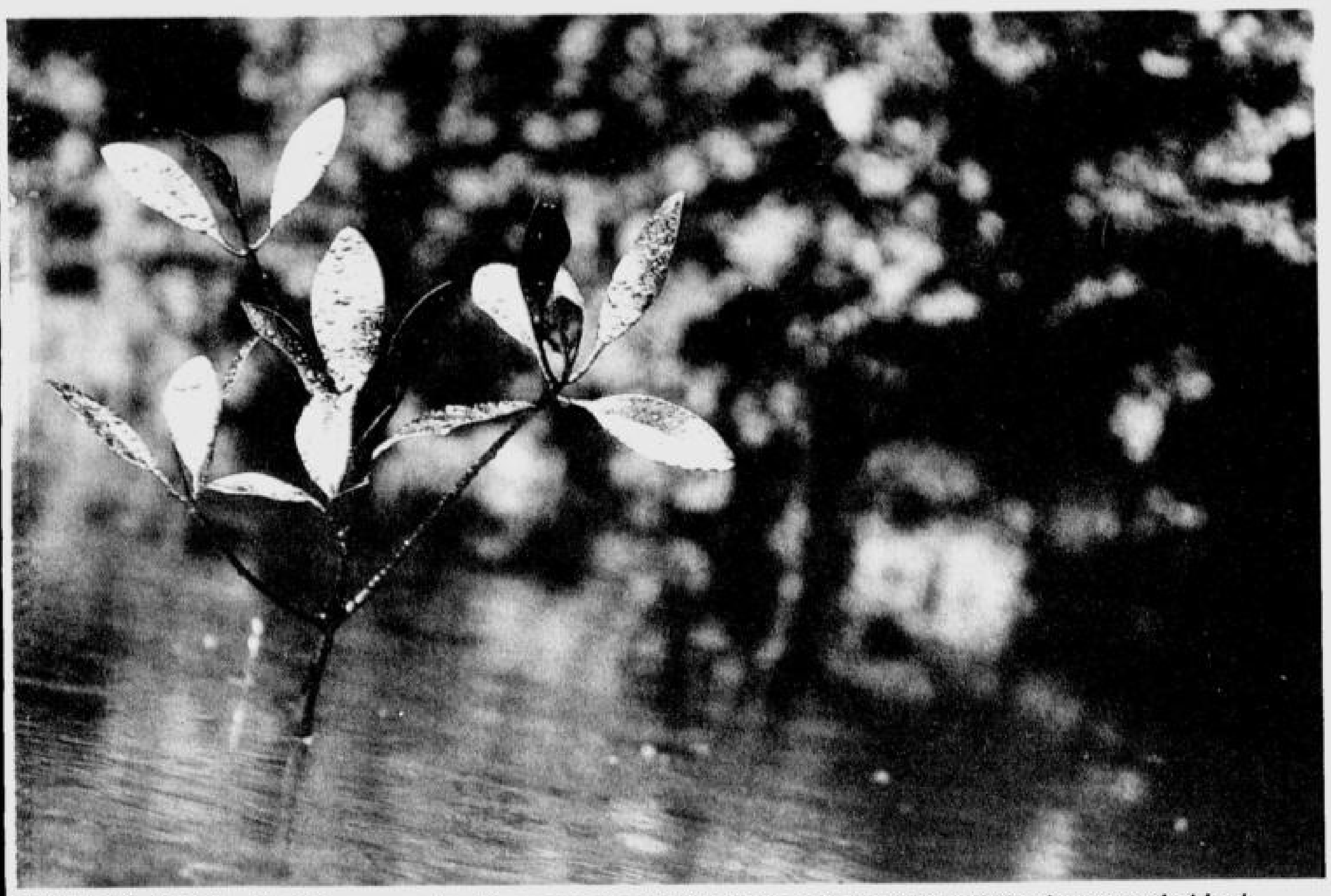
Salonga, a retired commodore of the Philippine Coast Guard, agreed with the idea of Homan and Payumo.

"We are on the same page as far as this issue is concerned," Salonga said.

"The plan of action of the sunken tanker's owners must be known. I want to be sure that they are thinking of what I'm thinking so that before I approach the owners of the cable retriever ship, we have a common understanding of what is needed," he said.

Salonga said he had informed Petron officials about the availability of the cable retriever ship but was told that the company was already discussing with an international broker.

"If that international broker taps the cable retriever, there will be no problem. The captain of the cable retriever told us that it can be used for surveying the area and other purposes to minimize the spill," he said.



STILLED life. A dried-up leaf of mangrove stands in sea water contaminated by an oil slick in Nueva Valencia town on the island province of Guimaras.

AFP

'Sensitive habitats can be smothered by oil'

By Blanche S. Rivera

BLACK REEFS, TAINTED FISHES, AND destitute people.

A marine biologist yesterday painted a not-so-colorful picture of the marine-rich Guimaras Island if the 1.8 million liters of bunker fuel oil still in the hold of a sunken vessel breaks out into Guimaras' waters.

Dr. Jose Ingles, eco-region coordinator of the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, said 90 percent of Guimaras' reefs were in the southern part of the province, where MT Solar I carrying 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil sank on Aug. 11.

Guimaras has 23 sq km of reefs and 395 ha of mangroves, said Ingles, who studied the island's marine resources and fish production in 1997-1998.

"These (reefs, sea grass) are sensitive habitats that can be smothered by oil . . . If oil breaks out of the tanker, the mitigating measures should be in the water. They should not wait for the oil slick," Ingles told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"At the time of our study, coral reefs in Guimaras were already overexploited. They (reefs) were already fragile, with only 16 percent in excellent condition. Now ... it will be black reefs and tainted fish," he said.

Bleak

Antonio Oposa, an environmental lawyer, has a more bleak scenario. "If this thing (tanker) blows, it will wipe out the marine resources of the entire Visayas. The effect will be felt by the next two generations," he said.

Guimaras Strait opens to the Visayan Sea in the northeast and the Sulu Sea in the southwest.

Oil slick has been monitored in the southwestern shores of Guimaras, possibly due to the wind direction. The northeast monsoon winds would be blowing into the country in October, which could push the current toward the Visayan Sea.

"This is the environmental catastrophe of the century," Oposa said. "We're not here to pinpoint blame, but we cannot leave this to something as ill-equipped and as seemingly nonchalant as this government."

Oposa, who chairs the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' national environmental action team, flew to Iloilo the other day for a fact-finding mission on the Guimaras oil spill.

Guimaras is home to some 50,000 fishers and 10,000 coastal residents. The province's total fish production was 10,000 tons per year. "That is huge; it's much, much higher than the (fish production in) neighboring areas," Ingles said.

Guimaras' 395-ha mangrove area could also have a maximum sustainable yield of 123 tons per year, according to the study of Ingles.

"With the oil spill, the worst hit would be the shorelines, the coasts, the swamplands with mangroves," Ingles said.

"The greatest impact would be on the fishers because many of them glean for oysters, crabs and shrimps. These are the very, very poor people who go to the sea and collect whatever is there," he said.

Who will pay? Gov't forms body to probe sinking

From page A1

As for the initial report, Mendoza said he expected it to contain information about the qualification of the MT Solar I captain to handle tankers, the condition of the vessel, and the regulations that could have been violated.

The tanker, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11 due to rough seas. At the time, it was carrying two million liters of bunker fuel oil of Petron Corp., which had chartered the vessel.

More than 200,000 liters of the fuel have spilled and damaged marine resources in Guimaras and Iloilo province.

Environment groups have warned that if all the tanker's contents leak into the ocean, it would be the biggest oil spill in the country.

The oil slick has affected Sibunag, San Lorenzo and Nueva Valencia towns in Guimaras, and Ajuy, Concepcion and Barotac Nuevo towns in Iloilo, wreaking havoc on fishing communities and a marine reserve.

Traces of the oil spill were spotted in 16 barangays in Ajuy, nine in Concepcion and one in Barotac Nuevo.

The town councils of Concepcion, Barotac Viejo, Dumangas and Barotac Nuevo have declared their municipalities under a state of calamity to facilitate the release of the calamity funds.

Palace advances P20 million

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday advanced P20 million for cleanup operations as Task Force Guimaras announced that Japanese experts had already been hired by Petron to retrieve the remaining oil in the sunken tanker.

At a Palace briefing, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who heads Task Force Guimaras, said the money would be given to the provincial disaster coordinating councils of Guimaras (P10 million), Iloilo and Negros Occidental (P5 million each).

The money would be reimbursed by Petron Corp. and the owner of MT Solar I.

Vice Adm. Arthur Gosingan, PCG commandant, said Sunshine Maritime and Petron would have to shoulder the cleanup operations and the retrieval of the sunken tanker.

He also expects Petron to shoulder the fuel costs incurred by PCG vessels involved in the cleanup.

Bond no longer needed

Mendoza said there was no need to require Petron or Sunshine Maritime to post a P100-million bond for the cleanup because Petron has been releasing funds for it.

The PCG has pinpointed the location of the tanker, which is 25 km southwest of Guimaras, or at latitude 10 degrees 14.5 minutes north, longitude 122 degrees 16 minutes east. It is at a depth of 300 to 500 fathoms (1,800 to 3,000 feet), according to Abinoja.

The PCG reported Tuesday that the sunken tanker was spewing between 200 and 250 liters of oil every hour.

But Cruz said he found out yesterday from Namria officials, who had sent two hydrographer vessels to the area and covered 5,000 sq km, that "the water was clear," indicating "no new spillage."

He acknowledged that this was just an "opinion based on observation."

Japanese salvage firm

Cruz and a Petron official, Carlos Tan, announced the arrival on Saturday in Guimaras of the submersible remote-operated vessel owned by Fukada Salvage & Marine Works Co. Ltd.

The Japanese salvage firm is capable of siphoning off oil at a depth of 2,000 meters.

But based on the procedures to be undertaken by the Japanese salvage company, it may take time before actual recovery operations can begin.

Tan, health safety and environment manager, said that Japanese experts would first conduct a sonar sweep for four to five days "to determine the exact location and position" of the sunken vessel.

After making this determination, he said the experts would deploy a remote-operated vessel whose cable is capable of reaching a depth of 2,000 meters.

"We chose Fukada because they said they have the experience, they have the equipment and have the capability of bringing the ship up at that depth," Tan said.

The oil slick was moving northward and "it could hit the northern part of Cebu," according to Science Secretary Mina Alabastro.

But Alabastro and Cruz were quick to say that authorities were doing everything to keep the oil slick from getting out of Guimaras Strait.

Cruz said he had ordered the PCG to monitor and watch the northern part of the Guimaras Strait and to place spill booms and obstructions to prevent the slick from spreading.

The defense chief said authorities with the help of residents had so far been able to clean up 10 km of shoreline a day.

Some 1,000 people are employed to do the cleanup and are paid P200 a day, he said.

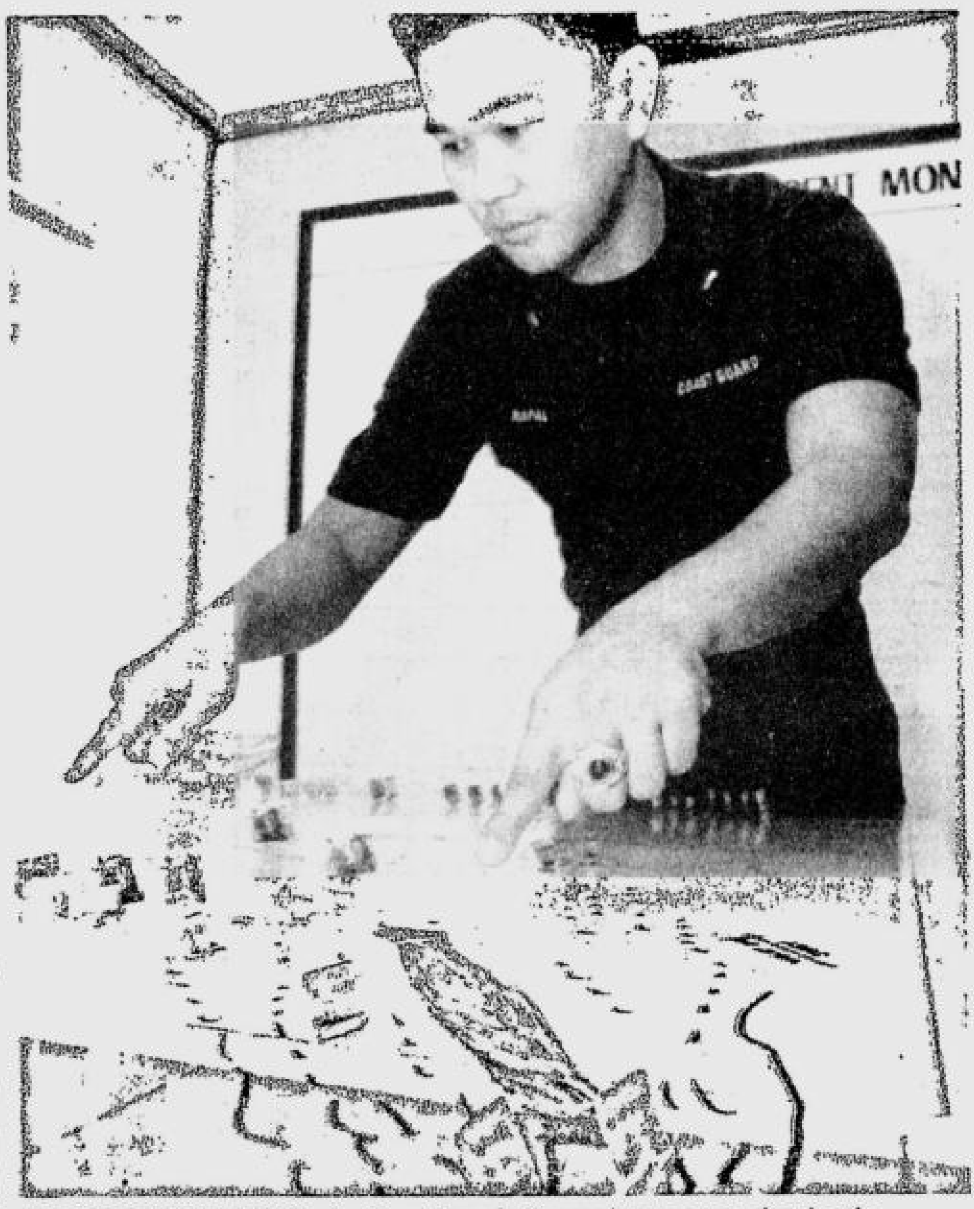
US team and relief work

Also helping out the government is a four-person team from the US Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which arrived Tuesday night and is coordinating with the PCG.

To complement the rehabilitation efforts of local government officials and Petron Foundation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development is distributing relief goods to the victims of the oil spill.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said that the DSWD-Region VI had released 220 bags of rice, of which 200 bags are funded through the Priority Development Assistance Fund of Rep. Edgar Espinosa, 15 cases of sardines, and 500 packs of used clothing. The relief goods were given to the provincial government of Guimaras.

Petron Foundation also provided relief goods consisting of 6 kilos of rice and 9 assorted canned goods worth P250 per family. A total of 2,553 family packs have been distributed to the affected families worth more than P600,000. *With reports from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; and Cynthia Balana and Volt Contreras in Manila*



IN DIRE STRAITS. A Philippine Coast Guard officer points to a map showing the situation at Guimaras Strait where some 2 million liters of bunker oil are wreaking havoc on the ecosystem.

RYAN LIM

Guimaras folk warned against 'neurasthenia'

From page A1

and feet, abnormally rapid breathing (or hyperventilation), periodic sighing and sweating for no apparent reason," said the British Columbia Health Guide.

It said the term "neurasthenia has fallen into disuse" among psychiatrists in the United States and Australia, but remained in use in the United Kingdom.

The term was first introduced in psychiatry in 1869 by American neurologist G.M. Beard, according to the website of Psychnet-UK.

Eczema

Besides neurasthenia, Guimaras folk should also watch out for dermatitis, according to Duque.

Also called eczema, dermatitis commonly refers to an inflammation of the skin.

"Dermatitis is a common condition that isn't life-threatening or contagious," says Mayo Clinic's website. "But, it can make you feel uncomfortable and self-conscious."

To avoid sickness because of oil contamination, people involved in the cleanup should wear proper protective gear, Duque said.

"Ordinary gloves won't do because they'll eventually break," he said. "They have to be nitryl and neoprene gloves."

The Department of Health has set up a 24-hour command center in Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras and has deployed five doctors, three nurses and eight health workers to three barangays, the health secretary said.

Duque said 1,200 people were involved in the massive cleaning operation to prevent the oil slick from the MT Solar I from further spreading.

He said the people were employed under the "money-for-work" program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

FOREIGN HELP. Japan Coast Guard Senior Response Officer Koji Tanaka aboard a Philippine Coast Guard ship looks out at sea on the way to inspect the oil spill around Guimaras Island Wednesday. Tanaka and two other Japan Coast Guard personnel were deployed by Tokyo to aid in the assessment of the cleanup operations. Japanese and US experts are helping efforts to contain the Philippines' worst oil spill. AFP

Oil spill will degrade naturally

BUNKER OIL OOZING OUT OF SUNKEN tanker MT Solar I will degrade naturally, but the process will take a long time, a professor at the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines Diliman said.

Dr. Nemesio Montaño said most of the fuel would settle at the bottom of the sea, where oil-degrading bacteria thrive. Once "chocolate mousse"—water-in-oil emulsion—is formed, however, the substance will be difficult to disintegrate, he said.

"Provided that the source of the spill is removed and the main cleanup is finished, it will take two to three years for the remaining oil to break down," Montaño estimated.

The main cleanup of the Semirara oil spill—which, according to the Philippine Coast Guard, involved 364,120 liters of fuel—took about six months to finish. Solar I carried about 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil when it sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11.

A similar incident occurred in Great Britain a decade ago. In February 1996, oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, spilling 72,000 tons of light crude oil and 480 tons of heavy fuel oil into the sea. The spill contaminated about 200 km of coastline.

The British government later said that just a month after the spill, concentration of oil in the water was already low because of the natural dispersion process.

Montaño said the speed of disintegration would depend on the temperature, the presence of oil-degrading bacteria, and the presence of nutrients that enable these bacteria to grow in number. These nutrients will help the process, but it will also encourage the growth of algae, which may cause a disturbance in the ecosystem, he said. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

ECOLOGICAL BOMB. A man hired by Petron shows barrels filled with oil collected from a slick in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. AFP

German resort owner plans to file P10-M damage suit vs Petron

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE GERMAN OWNER OF an island resort heavily affected by the oil spill in Guimaras is threatening to file a P10-million damage suit against oil refiner Petron Corp. and the owners of the sunken MT Solar I.

"I will ask the German government and the German Embassy if they can assist me in filing a case for damages," said Martin Stummer, owner of Nagarao Island Resort in the southwestern part of Guimaras.

Stummer, 66, said he had invested P100 million over the past 18 years to protect the corals and marine life around Nagarao and to beautify the 10-hectare island off the coast of Sibunag.

European guests normally stay for several weeks or months on Nagarao, which is 30 percent mangroves, 50 percent white beach, and 20 percent rock formation surrounded by coral gardens.

Stummer said one of his three sons with Ilongga wife Helen Solayao-Stummer had reported that the island's beach was covered with thick bunker fuel oil.

"I consider my investments a total loss," said Stummer in a telephone interview Tuesday evening from Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, where he is temporarily residing.

He said he was studying ways of raising the money for legal expenses, which he pegged at P150,000 for the lawyer and for filing fees.

"I originally want to file for damages of P100 million because corals will take a long time to recover—more than 20 years. There is no remedy for the corals," Stummer said.

Before the oil spill, he usually took Nagarao's guests to diving and snorkeling sites in the waters off Nueva Valencia and Sibunag towns near Nagarao.

The coastal areas of Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns are among the areas worst hit by the oil spill from the 998-ton tanker MT Solar 1 that sunk on Aug. 11 while transporting about 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil from Limay, Bataan.

The oil slick had reached Concepcion and Ajuy towns in Iloilo province as of Tuesday.

Angry over what he called the government's "absolute negligence," Stummer said President Macapagal-Arroyo should declare a state of calamity in Western Visayas if only to show that the national government was aware of the magnitude of the problem.

"I don't hear of any action from the national government. Where is the government? It does not have an understanding of the magnitude of the problem. The ignorance and the stupidity are incredible," said an agitated Stummer.

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[1] Meister A. Cancer Res [illegible](5):1969-1975.

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EDITORIAL

ALL TOO QUICKLY—AND PREDICTABLY—THE graduates who received passing marks in the June 2006 nursing exams are discovering the folly of insisting that they be accorded immediate recognition as members of the profession. A number who sought jobs in various hospitals have been turned away, while others who already had one foot in, having started their training, have been told they could not continue because patients didn't want to be put under their care.

One nursing graduate who applied with several government and private hospitals in Metro Manila didn't even get the courtesy of being told that her application had been rejected. But Bea Tibacan noted that one question was invariably asked every time she submitted her job application: Did you pass the June exams? And every time she said yes, "the atmosphere, their tone would suddenly change," Tibacan said of her interviewers. There's discrimination here, she said, which is "so unfair."

Of course, it is unfair, but such "discrimination" is unlikely to vanish if many in her batch of graduates would get their wish. They are demanding that they be allowed to take their oath and that they be issued licenses to practice the profession. But the leakage of examination questions in two subjects, which nobody now disputes, has cast serious doubts on the integrity of the exams. And, quite naturally, the preparation for the job and the competence of those who passed the exams have been put in question. The end result is that hospitals are reluctant to hire those who passed the June exams.

The owner of one review center said 15 nursing graduates who had taken review classes in his school couldn't find a hospital willing to accept them. Which is understandable, he said. "We can't really blame the patients or the hospitals because they have reason to be worried." The stigma of cheating has been attached to those who took the exams, and what is most needed now is to clear their names. The best way to do that is to nullify the results and require those who passed to retake the exams, he suggested.

There is no other way. The leakage was first traced to a review school located in Baguio. But now the investigation has been widened to include 22 nursing schools whose deans allegedly took part in the "final coaching" of examinees, after some examination questions had been leaked to them by a former president of the Philippine Nurses Association. Even if the students of all these schools are barred from taking their oath, there is no guarantee that other examinees didn't receive similar "tips." In other words, the integrity of the test has been so badly compromised that everyone who took it cannot now escape suspicion.

And that problem is not solved by simply setting aside the results of exams in the two subjects, as the Professional Regulation Commission has proposed. For as critics have pointed out, that would mean admitting half-baked nurses into the practice of a profession where what they do could sometimes mean life or death for a patient. But then what can one expect from officials who think they have to consult the examinees before they would decide whether to make them retake a test that has been tainted by cheating? They seem to have forgotten that their first obligation is to ensure that those who are admitted to regulated professions have the competence to carry out their functions. It is not to run a popularity contest.

This is why the graduates, the students and their teachers who have been doing all they can to stop the PRC from recognizing the result of the recent board exams deserve the support and encouragement of those who cherish the nursing profession. By insisting that the exams should be honest and above suspicion, they help ensure that competence is preserved in the nursing profession. And given the magnitude of the scandal, which has already attracted international attention, they are the ones who will help save the reputation of our nurses, our nursing schools and the entire profession, which have been a rich source of nurses and caregivers for many other nations.

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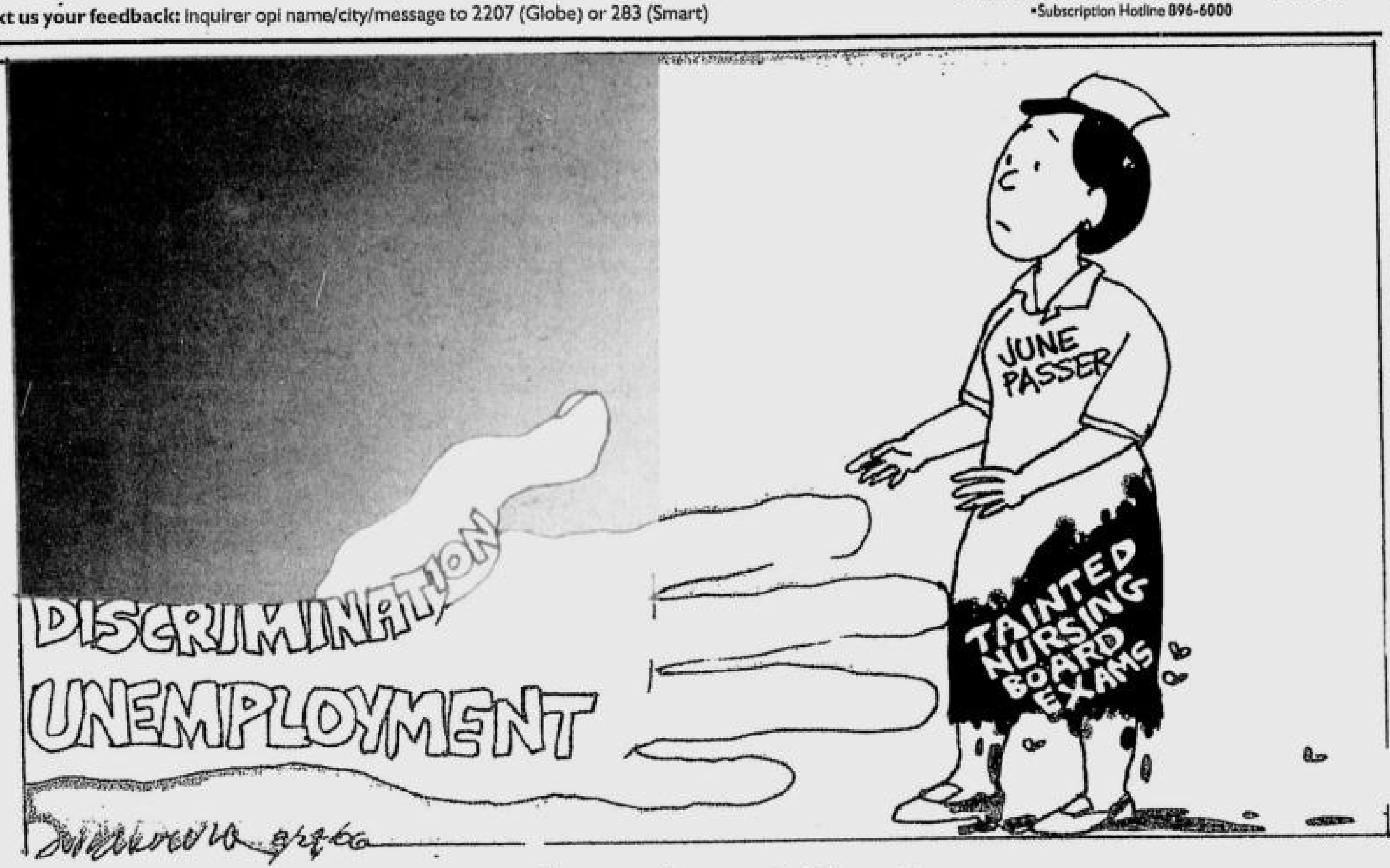

Midweek gridlocks

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"*MIYERKOLES HO KASI.*" (IT'S BECAUSE IT'S Wednesday, sir), the cab driver said as the bumper-to-bumper traffic, on Roxas Boulevard, inched toward the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran. In a year, about 5.54 million devotees join the Mother of Perpetual Help novena in this seaside church.

A midweek gridlock was the last thing that four priests and two brothers from the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer foresaw in 1931. They moved that year from Malate to a "place of the fish traps" (*baclad*) along Manila Bay, now known as "Baclaran."

The Redemptorists marked this year the centennial of their arrival in the Philippines—and Asia. They're relatively "latecomers." Dominicans, Jesuits and other religious preceded them.

When the Philippine Revolution erupted in 1898, over a thousand foreign religious and 700 Filipino secular priests staffed 967 parishes. That thousand dwindled to 246 when, in 1906, two Redemptorists sailed from Australia into Cebu.

A century later, there are 102 Redemptorists, 73 of them Filipinos. They're not youngsters. Their average age is 58. But there has been "a surge of vocations in the north." And 96 young men are in various stages of formation. Filipino Redemptorists became bishops in Cagayan de Oro and Pagadian. They serve as superiors.

Today, "there are 11 Redemptorist foundations with mission teams that could preach in the most dominant dialects: Cebuano, Ilonggo, Tagalog, Bicol and Waray," writes Bro. Karl Gaspar, CSsR, in a centennial monograph.

We saw the same trend while living for 17 years, in a Redemptorist parish, in Thailand

American Redemptorists, in the early '50s, carved the Holy Redeemer Parish out of rice fields in Bangkok. Gradually, they stepped back as the number of Thai priests and brothers grew, even as skyscrapers sprouted. George Phimphisan, for example, studied in Cebu's novitiate and stayed in Baclaran. He became bishop of Udon, in Surat Thani and introduced the Our Lady of Perpetual Help novena in Thailand.

"The novena in Baclaran became a word-of-mouth phenomenon as all Redemptorist houses, one after another, adopted the novena," Gaspar recalls. A "golden jubilee" count revealed 585 parishes, with 837 churches, hold the "perpetual novena." For that year, the total annual attendance nationwide was counted at 19.2 million.

The novena's popularity shows no signs of slackening. Redemptorists took Pius IX at his word, Gaspar adds, when he turned over the original Perpetual Help icon: "Make her known to the whole world."

Some claim Luke painted the original icon. There are those who disagree. But it continues to draw people to the Redemptorist Church, on Via Merullana, just before reaching Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica. Visitors in Rome would ask to stop there before driving on to Fontana de Treve or the Spanish Steps.

As World War II intensified, Fr. Francis Cosgrave took down and entrusted Baclaran's icon to a family on Taft Avenue. But the brutal Manila liberation battles wrecked that house. Cosgrave was bayoneted by rampaging Japanese soldiers while giving absolution to De La Salle brothers who were huddled in a cellar. Left for dead, American troops rescued him three days later.

"The icon's whereabouts remained a mystery," Gaspar notes. Visiting the Old Bilibid Prison on Azcarraga Street, a De La Salle brother discovered the icon. It has, since then, been returned to "the place of fish traps."

But an icon is an icon—meaningless without what it represents. So, what draws people Wednesday after Wednesday to Baclaran?

"Catholics would tell you, rather firmly, that Mary is not a goddess," notes an Economist cover story. "She is not worshipped but rather venerated: a human being with a unique role in praying for and protecting the human race."

That hews closely to Muslim belief. "She's the only woman to have an entire chapter in the Koran .... Muslims and eastern Christians cherish the story of Mary's childhood in a place of supreme holiness. Both name Mary's guardian as the priest Zechariah or Zakariya."

"Christians and Muslims alike see in Mary an affirmation that there is no limit to proximity of God that any human can attain," the cover story asserts. "Surely, that is reason enough, for people of any faith, to feel reverence for history's foremost Jewish mother."

Mary is "present in all key situations, at Jesus' birth, at his death and in the Upper Room ... and is more strategically placed than any other character in scriptures," writes Beverly Gaventa, Princeton University professor of New Testament literature. Whether in Egypt, Nazareth or Cana, "there isn't a figure comparable to her."

The "Magnificat" makes the Virgin a prophet herself, this Protestant scholar adds. This simple village maiden eloquently enunciated the idea that in Christ, "God is overturning things as they are," as her son was to insist.

Indeed, the "Magnificat" contains virtually every theme in Jesus' ministry, concurs evangelical moderate Scot McKnight in his book: "The Jesus Creed." "I think she sang him to sleep with this kind of songs and had a profound influence on him."

In her book "Mary: Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus," Beverly Roberts Gaventa revises some of Mary's traditional titles such as: "comforter of the afflicted" and "mother of good counsel." She calls her, for example, the "First Disciple."

For many, experience confirms the 12th-century "Memorare" that Bernard of Clairvaux wrote: "Never has anyone sought your intercession ... and been left unaided." So, those mid-week jams will persist. *Miyerkoles ho kasi.*

***

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Till kingdom come

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE A FEARLESS FORECAST TO MAKE at this early date. It is: If GMA remains in power until 2010, she won't leave.

I say this because I keep hearing people talking about all sorts of political configurations or tandems for 2010. Assessments and predictions are already being made about the "presidentiability" of certain individuals. I say this because I keep hearing people, gripped this early by election fever, talking about 2007 being a prelude to 2010. One Voice is expressly saying 2007 can be a verdict on the GMA presidency.

And I say this because I keep hearing people—some of them tired, frustrated and bitter after trying to unseat an unelected president and finding a world deaf to their entreaty—saying *sige na lang*, let's wait for 2010 and repair the harm that's been done. Or better still, punish the guilty afterward, begin anew and build a better world.

Let me douse water on those enthusiasms or desperate hopes. Those things are predicated on the belief that GMA will go gently into the night or into obscurity after 2010 when the prescribed term of the 2004 president ends. I see no reason to believe so.

All the signs today in fact point to the opposite: She won't leave.

Chief of those signs are today's "killing fields." The recklessness or, indeed, wild abandon with which GMA is wreaking the mayhem with the aid of her head executioner, Jovito Palparan, must suggest she means to stay on after 2010. For as long as breath remains in her body. She cannot afford to be out of power.

It cannot be unknown to her that that scale of mayhem—one wrought completely cynically (as the NPA, much ravaged by time and ideological setbacks, is in no position to seize power) it merely offers a convenient scapegoat—carries with it the seeds of epic retribution. At the very least, there is the legal recourse of haling her and Palparan to the World Court to answer for crimes against humanity. This scale of bloodbath, one done with little distinction between combatant and non-combatant, indeed one that directly, deliberately and systematically targets civilians who are turned into combatants by association or mere proximity, sends off loud echoes of genocide. In lieu of ethnic cleansing, ideological purification. With the international human rights community prosecuting, she and Palparan won't escape the harsh judgment of the world.

If they do, they must still reckon with the judgment of the kin, friends, and/or comrades of the dead. As those people like to point out, they have very long memories.

Along with the motive is the means. The means comes in the form of carrot and stick. The carrot is the Charter change. The only reason GMA hasn't yet earnestly pushed for the Cha-cha is that she doesn't have to—at this time. Why should she? She has until 2010 to rule, notwithstanding that she didn't win the elections. Marcos didn't think along those lines either, until his second term was about to end. Then he did everything in his power to get the Constitutional Convention to approve a shift to parliamentary government to allow him to run again, as prime minister. Failing that, he declared martial law.

Today's Cha-cha won't just allow GMA to run again after 2010 (and steal the vote again, which is the only way she—or her party in a parliamentary setting—can win), it will consolidate once and for all *trapo* power. For all the parliamentary system's theoretical virtues, it will only serve one purpose in this country, which is to end the entertainers' threat of snatching the highest positions in the land. Most of the congressmen who killed the impeachment bid against GMA can never become senators, they will always be beaten by the popular candidates. A parliamentary system, which makes everyone an MP, or Member of Parliament, solves that problem. GMA can count on Joe de Venecia and his syndicate in the House to ram the Cha-cha through even if only they, and not the public, are clamoring for it.

The stick is dictatorship. GMA has already flirted with it with 1017, and continues to flirt with it even now. We live today in a virtual dictatorship, government officials routinely spurning Senate summons despite the Supreme Court scrapping EO 464, human rights (notably freedom of assembly) being mugged, and Palparan going on a murder spree. Waiting for GMA to go after 2010 is like waiting for Marcos to go after martial law. It presumes there is a prescribed limit for dictatorship, real or virtual. Nice work if the Cha-cha will legalize the (indefinite) extension, but it's entirely optional.

And there's opportunity to go with motive and means. That comes in the form of the terrifying indifference of the public to iniquity. Or at least their lack of desire to do anything about it, even if, as the surveys indicate, they bristle at the thought of not having the president they voted for. What's to prevent GMA from staying on after 2010? Marcos at least was the legitimate president in 1972, having won a reelection in 1969. His mindset was to go around the rules, not to ignore them altogether. GMA has no such mindset. She has never been elected president yet rules as one. Why go around the rules when you need not even acknowledge they exist?

That public passivity is an active encouragement to malfeasance. Each hour that the public despairs of ending an illegitimate rule is another brick laid at the foundation of unending illegitimate rule. The current occupant of Malacañang has already gotten away with lying about her intention to run, she has already gotten away with stealing the vote, and now she is getting away with (very literally) murder. Each one of them represents an exponential leap in perfidy.

What's to prevent her from getting away with ruling forever?

A nation of carpers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE TRULY BECOME A NAtion of carpers. The day after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of the special commission to investigate and help prosecute the slaying of journalists and militants, the carping began. It looks like there's going to be no end to it. Very few are interested to strengthen the Melo Commission for the nation's benefit. Even this newspaper has made capital of the fact that for two days the new commission chair, retired Justice Jose Melo, "has not said a word about his appointment." But why should he when he and the other members have not even taken their oath yet?

* * *

Archbishop Oscar Cruz congratulated his colleague, Bishop Carmelo Gregorio of Batanes, for declining to join the commission. Cruz said that Gregorio would only be "used as a decoration."

In contrast, one group that offers constructive criticism, the civil rights group called "Counsels for the Defense of Liberties," said that the commission ought to include as member a human rights advocate—an idea worth considering.

* * *

The Left is quick to blame the military for the slaying of over 700 (by their count) media people and leftist militants. Indeed, it's entirely possible that some itchy-fingered soldiers are involved in the killings, out of vengeance. Or that rebel military elements just want to give the administration a black eye before the world community. But as some pundits have observed, neither can it be discounted that many of the killings could have been carried out by leftist elements who sacrificed their colleagues in order to bring down GMA. The mass graves unearthed by the military in the late 1980s were a grim testimony to the purges within the leftists' ranks. It's also hard to believe that the military would be so stupid as to kill media practitioners and leftists just because they are working against the government.

* * *

The huge discrepancy in the body count of Left-wing groups and that of the PNP and the INQUIRER has raised criticisms about exaggerated counts and accounts by the Left. I happen to have a personal insight into this. When my husband was brigade commander in Laguna in the late 1980s, his men caught a female NPA member with a firearm and detained her. When reports floated that she had been killed, within days, thousands of letters flooded the camp from all over the world, denouncing the alleged slaying. When the military reported that the *amazona* was very much alive and was being detained for illegal possession of firearms, there followed another barrage of letters demanding her release and asserting that she was not a combatant, that she was being detained against her will and even tortured. What struck me then was that the international groups were definitely highly organized and well-funded.

* * *

Truth seems to be a casualty in the controversy between Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Cayetano has accused Arroyo of owning a big bank account in a German bank, which the latter denied. But when Arroyo challenged him to go with him to Germany to pursue the truth, and even bought him a roundtrip ticket, Cayetano backed off. Now he is saying he'd go if the First Couple would sign a waiver to allow an investigation of their accounts in other places, too. He also wants to look into their real estate property. All of which are, of course, unacceptable to the Arroyos. Some say Cayetano is just out to grab headlines to boost his 2007 senatorial candidacy. But a pundit quipped that the real reason he didn't want to go was that he was being offered an economy ticket whereas Mr. Arroyo was going first class!

* * *

A most important and high-caliber international conference on various aspects in the life of the late French Jesuit philosopher and paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin will be held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 2006, at the Ateneo University's Escaler Hall. The principal speakers are Fr. Henri Boulad, S.J., from Alexandria, Egypt; Dr. Ursula King from Bristol University, England; Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, president of Metanexus Institute for Science and Religion in the US; and Jennifer Morgan of Princeton University, who will also launch the third volume of her internationally acclaimed "Universe Story Pictorial Trilogy," titled "Mammals Who Morph." King, who keynotes the conference, will talk on "Teilhard's Significance for Planetary Ethics and Creations Spiritualities." Boulad will speak on "Mysticism and Science," and Duffy on "Teilhard's Science: The Spiritual Power of Matter." Fr. Mario Francisco, S.J., president of Loyola School of Theology, will speak on "Teilhard and the Future of Christian Faith in the Asian Context."

* * *

The conference is being held on the occasion of Creation Day 2006 and the 125th birth anniversary of Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955). In 2003 the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral statement announcing the celebration of Creation Day. The conference is organized and hosted by the Ateneo University Theology Department, chaired by Dr. Marcus Locker; the Loyola School of Theology and the Geochris Foundation, an ecumenical group headed by Fr. Georg, an Austrian SVD priest who also chairs the De La Salle University Theology Department.

There will be workshops after each session, with participants coming from Asia, the US, Europe and local universities and institutions, as well as civil society. The conference is open to all, but the three-day seminar with meals will cost P3,000 for each participant. Discounts will be given to students, and walk-in participants will only pay P1,500 for the three-day seminar. Registration begins on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. at Escaler Hall. For details, call the Ateneo Theology Department at 426-6001, or the Geochris Foundation at 948-5371.

247

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

JUST BEFORE I SAT DOWN TO WRITE THIS piece yesterday, I was reading the INQUIRER banner story about another killing—that of peasant leader Hermilito Marqueza in Tandag, Surigao del Sur last Sunday. The lead paragraph said this happened hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of an independent commission that would investigate the wave of politically-linked killings.

Marqueza was the 247th victim of this "type" of killing since 2001, the year Ms Arroyo became president. If one goes by the victims listed in Amnesty International's (AI) report released last week, Marqueza should be the 51st victim in year 2006. AI's list ended with victim No. 50, Mayor Delfinito Albano who was killed on June 27, 2006. The 49th is Wilfredo Cornea of Task Force Mapalad, who was killed on June 20, 2000.

But one cannot breezily go down the list that way. After AI's number 50, there must have been a few more before Marqueza, except that they did not make it to the AI list and deadline. I cannot believe that there were no victims in July. What, no victims? That would have been unusual. Killings have been so common, so everyday, that a sudden lull is unbelievable. Marqueza is not the 51st, he's probably the 55th. Throw in a couple of slain journalists in between.

I am appalled that I am talking numbers, sequence and lists here, like these victims were just to be ticked off a list. But they happen to have names and faces, they have families, professions, places in their communities, organizations, churches—and in the hearts of those they loved and those who loved them.

I think of the 247, or even just of the 51, 52 or 53, and I think of whole families and communities that grieve for them and have been diminished because of their deaths, shocked and terrified by the way they were slain. I think of the grief that turns into fury, hot tears, clenched fists.

I am tempted to grab a calculator hoping to arrive at a number that would expand the impact. But then, I thought, doing so would further reduce and relegate both the dead and the living victims to the statistics department. Numbers and lists serve a purpose but there are things one cannot quantify.

What is the future of the orphaned children, how will they move on, who will resume the work of those who were murdered, what is the impact of the slaying on the community?

Walang kalaban-laban is how we say it in Filipino. No literal word-for-word translation for that in English. But it is a scenario where a victim—unarmed, unaware, unprepared, outnumbered and with no chance to fight back—is gunned down by men he or she does not know, men who emerge from the shadows and strike without warning.

Well, not exactly without warning, for not a few victims had been threatened and served notice, a not-so-strange tactic meant to set the stage for the kill.

But I also think of the perpetrators of these serial murders. Who are they, what are they? Who sent them, who funded them? Do they have personal motives? Is one death related to another? Is one perpetrator related to another?

Is this entire wave the handiwork of like-minded people acting in concert? Or are the incidents separate and the perpetrators disparate in thinking, but riding on the same wave to carry out their motives and inflict harm in rapid-fire succession in order to confuse and terrify their prey?

As they say, *pwedeng sakyan ng kakit sino*, any one could take advantage of the situation. Sure, but this started somewhere, in some minds. This is not a spontaneous, un-orchestrated wave.

This terrible phenomenon, or wave, or series is bigger than all the individual killings combined. And one cannot but lament that it took this long, it took these many unsolved killings, for the President to call for an independent investigation. More than 50 on the eighth month, why not 90 by Christmas?

I don't know how the investigating commission tasked by the President will proceed. Will this simply be a fact-gathering, report-writing exercise? Will the commission come up with something similar to AI's, that is, facts, recommendations, conclusions.

But will any of the crimes be solved? At least a few, so we would know the whys? Should we call in "CSI"? Sure, the killings must stop. But it is not enough that the so-called extrajudicial killings stop. We need answers. The least the bereaved families and the rest of us would like to know is who did it, who ordered it, and why. And most of all, whether justice will be served.

What has not happened yet is a backlash reminiscent of the late 1980s that saw policemen on patrol being gunned down like sitting ducks by armed anti-government groups. Some of the victims were picked because of their "reputation" and dismal human rights track record. Revolutionary justice, it is called. Others were victims of the *agaw-armas* (pistol-seizing) campaign of armed ideologues. *Walang kalaban-laban*, people would say of the poor young cops killed on the beat.

More than 10 years ago, I did a long magazine story on the wave of killings of that time. I interviewed bereaved families from both sides and what did I learn?

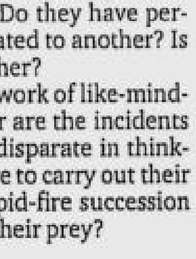
There is no name for the pain.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

'Pinautusang manok'

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

SA ISANG MALAKING BAHAY NG MGA MANOK (tawagin na lang nating Manukang Pambansa), ay may ilang mga tandang na makapangyarihan. Sina Eggshell Lagmanok, Roditlog Birdynino, Luisisiw Billfeathers, Teddybird Lokhen, at ang kanilang hepe, si Simanok Tukamanok.

Isang araw, may namasdan silang mga uod.

"Ano na naman ito," sabi ni Luisisiw. "Ang daming uod, parang chopsuey!"

"Pagpipilian daw natin ang pinakamatabang uod dito," paliwanag ni Simanok.

"Bakit?" tanong ni Luisisiw. "Ano, magiging ukay-ukay na ba ang Manukang Pambansa na ito? Anong gagawin natin sa pinakamatabang uod? Kakainin ba natin? Nasaan 'yung kinasanayang imported na chicken feed na pinapadala ni Ma'am? Hindi ako papansinin ng mga hen kung wala tayong chicken feed. Wala tayong panahon para sa pagsusuri ng mga uod."

Napalingon 'yung mga ibang manok. Napalayo ang kanilang tanaw. Ika nilang lahat: "Mmmm … chicken feed …"

Pinagmasdan ni Teddybird ang mga uod. "Sabi nga ng iba, may uod lamang kapag may bulok. Ebidensya daw ito na may nangungurakot. Malamang inuuod ang chicken feed, o kaya di man lang chicken feed ang pinapakain sa atin."

"Asus," sabi ni Luisisiw ng mainit. "Maniwala ka sa kanila. Baka may mga nagrerebeldeng mga manok! Pagpipilian ang matabang uod, eh paano kung may lason ang mga uod na ito?"

"Obligasyon natin bilang mga makapangyarihang manok …" simulang paliwanag ni Teddybird, ngunit di-maawat si Luisisiw.

"Kalokohan! Anong obligasyon? Ako, mataba. Kayong lahat, malusog. Eh, ibig sabihin OK na OK ang chicken feed! Gusto lang nilang agawin ang ating kinakain! Mga pulang manok 'yan!"

Nanginig ang mga manok. Hinimatay 'yung iba.

Napaisip si Roditlog. Nagbitiw siya ng tanong: "Ano kaya ang magugustuhan ni Ma'am? Alam ko na! Ibasura ang mga uod!"

Di makabitiw ng salita ang mga kasamahan niya. Hindi sila sanay na mag-isip tungkol sa kagustuhan ni Ma'am. Mas sanay silang tumilaok upang pansinin sila ni Ma'am.

Napaisip din si Simanok: "Sabi nung iba, masustansya daw naman ang mga uod na iyan. Tikman na lang natin para masabi kung alin ang mataba."

"Teka muna, mga kaibigan," sabi ni Roditlog. "Kung titikman natin ang mga uod na iyan, walang matitirang uod para kay Ma'am. Eh, ano kung masarap 'yung uod? At kung makita naman ni Ma'am na tinikman natin ang uod na 'yan, sasabihin ni Ma'am na mga ingrato tayo at ayaw na natin sa chicken feed niya …"

"Mmmm … chicken feed," sabi ng lahat.

"At heto pa, mga kapatid," dagdag ni Eggshell. "Kung makita naman ng mga ibang manok na kakainin natin ang mga uod, pagbibintangan naman tayong magnanakaw ng mga uod ng iba. Talo tayo dito."

"E, pano yan?" tanong ni Simanok.

Ngumiti si Eggshell. "Kaya nga may patakaran tayo ukol sa ganitong bagay. At ang maganda sa mga patakaran natin, wala man lang tayong obligasyong tikman ang mga uod."

"Ha?" tanong ng lahat.

"Ganito," paliwanag ni Eggshell. "Kailangan nating tanungin, uod ba ito?"

"Ah, determinasyon ng form!" sabi ni Luisisiw, sabay kindat.

"Mismo! At kung uod nga ito, kailangan nating tingnan kung may sapat na kapangyarihan at awtoridad tayo bilang Manukang Pambansa, upang talakayin kung ang itinuturing mga uod—at hindi pa akong handang umamin na ang mga bagay na ito—ay mga uod nga talaga at masasabing uod na mataba."

"Ah! Ang ibig mong sabihin, ito ang proseso upang magka-determinasyon sa substance!" sabi ni Roditlog, sabay ngiti. "Ibabasura din natin, ngunit masasabing nasunod ang proseso!"

"Tama," sabi ni Luisisiw. "Kaya hindi man lang mahalaga sa atin kung may lason ang mga sinasabing uod na iyan, dahil sa aking kaalaman—at marami akong alam!—hindi naman inatas sa atin ni Ma'am ang pag-iimbistiga kung may lason ang isang bagay o wala."

"May ebidensya daw yung iba na ang mga uod na ito ang talagang nais nilang ipakita sa atin," sabi ni Teddybird. "Tingnan naman natin."

"Anong ebidensya?" wika ni Eggshell ng mainit. "Mga lintik na bagitong manok na iyan! Hindi ba nila alam na may pecking order dito? At ang pecking order ang masusunod! Hindi pa sila napisang itlog ay sinusunod na ng lahat ang pecking order na iyan!"

Subali't napaidlip si Simanok at bigla na lang nagising. "Ano? Pecking duck? Eh, akala ko mga manok tayo? Paalisin diyan ang mga hindi manok! Bawal ang mga pato!"

Nilinaw sa kaniya ng lahat na ang mga nasa silid manukan ay mga manok, at may karapatang makilahok sa proseso.

"Basta. Kapag may nahalata akong di magandang bagay na ginagawa sa mga manok, lilipat tayo sa ibang silid!" sabi ni Simanok.

Biglang nagalit si Roditlog: "Masama ang tingin sa akin ng mga ibang manok sa ating paligid! At bakit sila nagwawagayway ng mga puting balahibo? At bakit ba may senyas ang mga bagitong manok na iyan, na takot daw tayo? Iyan ay isang uri ng propaganda na bawal sa maginhawang silid-manukan na ito!"

Biglang may kumiriring na cell phone.

"Hello, Roditlog? Shabihin mo na wala akong fafakainin sha mga ebun na iyan kung wala shilang deshishyon sha kasho! Ibashura na!"

Naintindihan ni Roditlog ang nais maganap ni Ma'am. Binulungan niya si Simanok: "Ano na? Mga manok o kalapati ba tayo? Alam naman nating lahat kung ano ang magaganap. Ayos na ang buto-buto! Tapos na ang boksing! Luto na ang macao! Kuwarta na!" Umalis na lang si Teddybird na isang disenteng manok.

Nag-anunsyo si Simanok: "Sayang ang panahon. May desisyon ang nakararami. Hindi ito mga uod! Insufficient sila sa form at substance! Dito nagwawakas ang pagsusuri!" Nagkukuruku si Eggshell. Nagkukuruku na rin si Luisisiw. Hindi kasama si Roditlog sa timing ng pag-kukuruku kaya umupo na lang siya sa isang tabi at sumimangot.

Habang nagaganap ang mga bagay na ito, may nanonood na mga tao sa kanila.

"Ano kaya ang nangyayari diyan?" tanong ng isa.

Sagot ng katabi, "Malay natin. Ang alam ko lang, mga Texas ang mga 'yan. E, 'yun pala, mga basang sisiw lang sila."

The Church that I know

YOUNG BLOOD

Ederic Peñaflor Eder

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE REALLY RELIGIOUS, BUT I GREW up close to the Catholic Church, its people, structures and basic teachings.

My mother served the Church for many years until she perished in a sea accident 11 years ago. Even after Mama's death, catechists in our town still see me as the only son of their beloved Sister Evelyn, who used to happily visit even remote island villages to teach catechism. Until now, Nanay Diding, my dear grandmother, is always a welcome visitor at our parish office not only because she regularly offers Masses but also because she is Sister Evelyn's mother.

Priests and nuns were—and still are—among our family friends. A former bishop of the Diocese of Marinduque used to visit our humble house. Tatay Andoy, my late grandfather who had the picture of the great Pope John Paul II on display on his altar, had a distant cousin who became our parish priest. And when I was a young boy, dear Sister Paula of the Missionary Catechists of Saint Therese gave me a secondhand stuffed toy that I cherished so much.

The compound that houses the Church and two convents in our parish, as well as the little grotto nearby, was my playground. I attended countless Masses, seminars, Christmas parties and other gatherings held in those buildings.

Knowing that I was a *komiks* addict, Mama gave me an illustrated Bible and copies of Gospel Komiks. Books on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church occupy an important space in my little bookshelf.

When I was a teenager, I helped organize the praying of the rosary daily in our barangay chapel. After the rosary, other leaders and I would answer questions from the group. I even participated in the 1995 World Youth Day in Manila. (I tried to join again last year, but the German Embassy refused to give me a visa.)

Such familiarity with the Church and the activities of my mother and her colleagues in the religious sector helped shape not just my personal values but also my perspective on social issues. I have seen the Church practice what it preaches: Love your neighbor. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Give shelter to the homeless.

Our parish has distributed relief goods to typhoon victims. It has helped build houses for indigents. The Church that I know indeed exercises a preferential option for the poor.

I didn't need to wait for my science teachers in school to stress how important it is to preserve our natural resources for future generations. The Church that I know showed it to me early in my life when Mama, Monsignor Rollie, Sister Aida and other advocates worked hard to pressure Marcopper to stop dumping mining wastes in our sea. They taught me that it is right to fight corporate interests that offer economic rewards in the present but leave nothing for the young.

I didn't need to learn in Sibika at Kultura the need to protect the sacredness of the people's vote and how vital it is to a democracy. The Church that I know already made me understand this idea when Mama and her fellow catechists signed up as Namfrel volunteers. Although some people accused Jaime Cardinal Sin of violating the principle of separation of Church and State, it wasn't difficult for me to understand why he called on the faithful to go to Edsa during the two people power revolts.

Even when I was already a journalism student at the University of the Philippines, the Church that I know didn't fail me. Father Robert was on our side in our struggle against the government's attempt to commercialize UP education. When we asserted our national sovereignty by marching against the Visiting Forces Agreement, we had the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

When corruption appeared to run out of control during the Estrada administration, the bishops supported Cardinal Sin's call for the President to step down. So when Erap's friends in the Senate tried to hide the truth from the people, it felt great marching to Edsa, Ayala and Mendiola alongside activist nuns, priests and seminarians.

In the various sociopolitical issues facing the nation, the Catholic Church in the Philippines took the position I knew it should embrace. Thus, I was surprised when, amid charges of electoral fraud in the "Hello Garci" controversy, the CBCP refused to call for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation last year. And even if it also told her not to simply dismiss such a call, I was bothered. That stance just didn't seem to be consistent with the previous positions taken by the Church that I know, the Church that always upheld what was true and just.

In 1985, after years of "critical collaboration" with the Marcos regime, Filipino bishops declared that "we must begin to disengage ourselves from whatever ties have developed in our history that link us to power structures—political, economic, social—that are oppressive of our people."

Later that year, Pope John Paul II told the bishops from Visayas and Mindanao: "Precisely because you are close to the daily life of the members of your local Churches, to their sufferings and aspirations, you have been concerned to offer guidance and leadership to your people in their search for a more dignified human condition and for greater participation in the important choices which affect the life of the nation. The whole Church is grateful to you for the example of compassion and solidarity with those in need which you have given and for your encouraging participation in the development and progress of your people."

In these times when their flock needs guidance and leadership, it is sad that the CBCP has decided to play it safe. Despite the soundness of its pronouncement on Charter change and extrajudicial killings, the bishops' latest statement rejecting the impeachment process without actually proposing an alternative process for searching for the truth is disturbing.

I try to justify it as a boycott of a process that proved to be flawed and which is easily subject to the manipulation of the administration, as seen in last year's impeachment attempt. The Church is simply refusing to give its blessings to a *moro-moro* directed by Ms Arroyo, with her House allies as main actors.

But for more than half of our people who want her out, it could also be read as a sign of hopelessness and resignation. It echoes the cynicism that now permeates the middle-class psyche: "*Eh sino'ng ipapalit?*"

I don't want to believe that the leaders of the Church I grew up with—the Church that teaches faith, hope and love—has abandoned the hope that we can have a better nation and lost faith in the possibility of reform based on justice.

Ederic Peñaflor Eder, 27, works as researcher for GMA Network and is editor of the youth e-zine Tinig.com.

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Cruz a co-equal human being

WE WOULD LIKE TO MANIFEST our objection to the views espoused by former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz in his column "Don we now our gay apparel." (PDI, 8/12/06)

Cruz seems convinced that people are not created equal, and that some are entitled to certain rights while others are not.

The Constitution, which he has upheld many times in brilliant *ponencias* when he was still with the high court, is founded on the very ideals of equality that he has disregarded in his Aug. 12 column.

We are perceived to be different, but it does not mean we have no rights. We are also sure that Cruz is familiar with the struggles of our forefathers (and foremothers) in the early beginnings of a Republic that is also composed of small, brown, uneducated people who, after years of colonization, wanted to govern themselves. They were looked down as a people not fit for freedom because they were of the wrong color. Our heroes won our freedom for all of us at a price, but surely not just so Filipinos could one day blatantly discriminate against their fellow Filipinos.

Homosexuals have been around for so long, and like other marginalized groups, they have been subjected to persecution. On the issue at hand, it worries us that a legal luminary would condone the mauling of gays. Yes, gays are mauled. We certainly hope the irresponsible statements of Cruz, a person of credibility and unquestioned brilliance, will not be taken as a license for macho men to use violence against homosexuals. We are everywhere, and for a long time, we have been quiet and invisible. However, staying closeted and afraid is no longer an option when our fear makes us vulnerable to violence, to extortion and even to the callousness of others.

Lastly, his statement correlating the virility of males and the grace of females to strength and weakness shows a misplaced regard for women especially at a time when women constitute probably the strongest workers here and abroad. Our country's faltering economy is sustained by the sweat and sacrifice of women as factory workers, informal workers and overseas Filipino workers. In our time of dire need, while there is grace in being female, there is no weakness. And yes, there is strength without the virility of maleness.

Cruz has been more privileged than us in some ways, but in the end he is a coequal human being to whom we, as homosexuals, are willing to extend the basic courtesy and respect that he has failed to extend to us.

It is not too late. We hope we can have persons like Justice Cruz beside us as we continue to strive for equality for all.

—ANNE MARIE LIM,
Rainbow Rights Project
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Sympathizing with gays, letting Cruz off the hook

THE EDITORIAL "BORN FREE and equal" (PDI, 8/22/06) concedes that Isagani Cruz's columns on LGBT persons invited angry reader response. It acknowledged further that we still suffer discrimination and outright violence. However, it didn't link hate-literature, like that of Cruz's, to the violence committed against us but it's a step that the editorial finally came around to talking about it.

The editorial is, at best, a declaration of the INQUIRER's sympathy with gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders. At worst, it somewhat gets Cruz off the hook. But we won't let that happen. We still demand an apology from him. We still want the INQUIRER to disavow itself from Cruz's hate-columns.

But let's not sound so grim and determined. In just over a week, our collective angry voice made a difference with the INQUIRER and Cruz, and I want to thank all those who called, e-mailed and wrote on our behalf. This is the fundamental lesson, time and time again, in my advocacy work. When you appeal to your friends and they agree with your message, and they do something about it, too, you create a wave that cannot be stopped.

About two years ago, there were stories about blogs and the Internet becoming a tool for political and social change. In this fight, I started "trawling" through the Internet, reading blogs, reading comments on the blogs and reading other people's perspectives.

Now I know what those stories I read years back meant. The blogs and the Internet have truly widened democratic discussion and given us additional weapons of collective wisdom to get our points across.

—JOHN L. SILVA,
jsilva79@hotmail.com

Throwing stones, glass houses and eye specks

WILL YOU GUYS JUST COOL IT! Take a cold shower or something! It ill befits the INQUIRER to serve as a forum for discussing subjects as asinine as how many angels may be sitting on the head of a pin.

Gay, straight, bigot, macho, etc., wake up, people—and smell the roses! There is injustice, double standard of justice, media bias, environmental degradation, etc.—subjects that are worthy of discourse.

Manuel L. Quezon III would have done better than venting his ire on an old man—one who sided with the oligarchs of the post-martial law era.

What is good for the goose should be good for the gander, right? Right or wrong, give the benefit of the doubt to Cory Aquino's alleged indiscretions while condemning those of Erap? Apples and oranges, but people shouldn't throw stones at glass houses or look at the speck in other people's eyes without looking at their own.

A great, misunderstood rebel of His time—He didn't want to fit in or conform to the "standards" of His time—wisely counseled: "He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone."

—RICARDO VALDEZ,
gladius692000@yahoo.com

'Aquarium solution' not a cure to massive fish kill

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE news item "Munti fishermen turn to aquarium fish as livelihood." (PDI, 8/16/06)

The report mentioned the massive fish kill (around 6,000 kilos of various kinds of fish died from oxygen depletion) two months ago, along the Sucat portion of Laguna de Bay. It then reported that several nets have been set up in the same area for an aquarium-fish breeding project to provide fishermen with alternative sources of income.

Poor fish! Japanese koi, angelfish, goldfish, guppies, mollies, and fighting fish are, still and all, fish. If the city does not address the cause of oxygen depletion, they will suffer the same fate as the local fish. The fishermen will once again find themselves without income.

We thank the INQUIRER for making itself a truly interactive newspaper.

—JIENMEI WU,
jm.0511@yahoo.com

Bigotry: fear of the 'other'

UPON THE SUGGESTION OF A man who should be a Supreme Court justice, I have replaced with the word "indio" the words "homosexual," "gay" and "queer" in an excerpt of former Justice Isagani Cruz's Aug. 12 column:

"Indios (homosexuals) before were mocked and derided, but now they are regarded with new-found respect and, in many cases, even treated as celebrities. Only recently, the more impressionable among our people wildly welcomed a group of entertainers whose main proud advertisement was that they were 'indio' (queer). It seems that the present society has developed a new sense of values that have rejected our religious people's traditional ideas of propriety and morality on the pretext of being 'modern' and 'broad-minded.'

"The observations I will here make against indios (homosexuals) in general do not include the members of their group who have conducted themselves decorously, with proper regard not only for their own persons but also for the indio (gay) population in general. A number of our local couturiers, to take but one example, are less than manly but they have behaved in a reserved and discreet manner unlike the vulgar members of the indio (gay) community who have degraded and scandalized it. I offer abject apologies to those blameless people I may unintentionally include in my not inclusive criticisms. They have my admiration and respect."

The point of this exercise is to show how all forms of bigotry—whether on the basis of race, class, sex, gender, or sexual orientation—are rooted in ignorance and fear of the "other."

—RAIJELI NICOLE,
executive director,
Isis International-Manila
c/o malyn@isiswomen.org

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No way to tolerate intolerance

ISAGANI CRUZ BEGAN HIS AUG. 12 column, which was mockingly titled "Don we now our gay apparel," with the line "Homosexuals before were mocked and derided, but now they are regarded with new-found respect." When I first read it, I was shocked and saddened that a former Supreme Court justice—one whom you would expect to be the first to promote equality and respect for all Filipinos—would be the first instead to mock and deride homosexuals today, without shame or remorse. In my head, the question that kept repeating itself was this: "How do we tolerate intolerance?"

As Cruz rightfully put it, "The change in the popular attitude toward homosexuals is not particular to the Philippines." Indeed, what he called "the new-found respect" for queer people was celebrated by 18,566 participants from 111 countries and supported by more than half a million spectators who converged in Montreal, Canada last July 26 through Aug. 5 for the 1st World Outgames and the 1st World International Conference on LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Human Rights.

Yes, the change in the popular attitude toward homosexuals is, thankfully, not particular to the Philippines. This newfound respect for queer people is upheld by no less than the Constitution of South Africa, a country that has emerged from apartheid through the leadership of the great Nelson Mandela.

Let me quote the preamble of the South African Constitution: "We, the people of South Africa, recognize the injustices of our past ... and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity." South Africa's Bill of Rights protects against unfair discrimination by the State or anyone on the grounds of "race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth." Yes, more sophisticated countries promote equal rights for all, including homosexuals and all queer people of diverse gender, sex, or sexual orientation.

We, who are sarcastically called queer, recognize the injustices of our past (and present) and believe that the Philippines belongs to all who live in it, united in diversity. As I personally try to follow what the great Mandela urged all of us to do—to believe in goodness and to have faith in human beings—I seek my heart for the strength to forgive a man who has shamelessly mocked and derided LGBT individuals like myself.

How do we tolerate intolerance? We do not.

—MIRA ALEXIS P. OFRENEO, Ph.D.,
executive director,
Can't Live in the Closet (CLIC)
Philippines and female Asian
representative to the board,
International Lesbian
and Gay Association (ILGA),
miraofreneo@yahoo.com

4-Way Test makes better persons

IF THE INQUIRER THINKS THAT our fellow Rotarian Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante is guilty, it does not necessarily follow that it has the right to insult the 4-Way Test of the Rotary International. If a Rotarian commits a crime and is found guilty, the INQUIRER doesn't have to make a mockery of the Rotary.

Would the INQUIRER like it if we, Rotarians who belong to the 10 Rotary districts in the Philippines, will condemn the whole INQUIRER because of that cartoon? (PDI, 8/16/06)

As Rotarians, the 4-Way Test are standards that we hold dear and strive to uphold. They are simple standards but we try to measure up to them constantly and consistently. And it has been proven that since its formulation, the 4-Way Test has changed and made better persons of many men, especially those who have joined the movement.

The 4-Way Test has been helpful in motivating us to keep on trying to rise above our fragile selves and hopefully, become better human human beings. We, Rotarians, deserve a public apology.

—ABNER S. TAYCO,
past president, PHF, TRF alumnus,
Rotary Club of Olongapo,
Centennial District 3790,
abco9mm@yahoo.com

Our reply to Rotarians

It is unfortunate that Rotarians took offense at the INQUIRER's editorial cartoon last Aug. 16. It was not the newspaper's intent to malign the Rotary Club as an organization and its 4-Way Test. Far from making a mockery of the Rotary ideals, the cartoon aimed to show that some of Bolante's colleagues in the Rotary think he is a disgrace to the organization.—Ed.

A distortion?

ALLOW ME TO POINT OUT TWO THINGS in the manner the cartoon depicted the "Rotary's 4-Way Test."

To many Rotarians, it was a distortion of the correct wording of the "Test" and was intended to mock this sacred Rotary principle. That the cartoon was meant to highlight Bolante's alleged shortcomings and other people's displeasure with him is not an excuse to ridicule the Test which Rotarians hold dear.

Secondly, the news item "Rotarians say Bolante hasn't failed 4-Way Test" (PDI, 7/30/06) is another example of how the INQUIRER takes liberties with the truth. I never said that. Neither did anyone among those who were quoted in the report. There was nothing in the story that would have implied such a statement. But the INQUIRER, for the sake of sensationalism, drew a conclusion and highlighted it in the form of a headline.

We are aware that the INQUIRER has been taking potshots at Bolante for some time now. For as long as its tirades were leveled at a particular individual whom it was holding accountable for certain actuations, it did not hear from us.

The 4-Way Test is upheld by the Rotary as a personal code of conduct. It is up to each individual Rotarian to provide the answer to each question in the Test insofar as the things he or she thinks, says, or does are concerned. It is therefore up to Bolante to account for his actuations. This is why the INQUIRER heard no public outcry from the Rotarians, even if some of those who knew him well were pained at the personal attacks that were rained on his person.

But the cartoon on Rotary's 4-Way Test was another matter. Many who saw it took it to mean as an attack against the organization which give it special importance and value. The Rotary does not deserve to be mocked and ridiculed for the perceived wrongdoing of one individual.

This is our reason for feeling offended and for demanding an official apology from the INQUIRER.

—JIMMY A. CURA,
district governor, Rotary Club

Fe Zamora, the INQUIRER reporter who filed the news item "Rotarians say Bolante hasn't failed 4-Way Test," stands by her story, which she says was based on a 30-minute interview with Mr. Cura. —Ed.

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PRISONERS' WELFARE

Cop, rebel find common cause

By Madonna T. Virola
City of Calapan

ONCE ENEMIES ON THE battlefields, Rolando Gonzales, a retired police senior superintendent who serves as warden of the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Jail (OMPJ), and inmate Eduardo Serrano are now partners in promoting prison welfare.

They used to be at the forefront of clashes between police and rebel forces. Now, the warden and the former NDF leader speak passionately about projects for inmates in the provincial jail

Gonzales, 60, has served the Philippine National Police in various capacities, while Serrano, 53, is a former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front in Southern Tagalog.

Gonzales became a warden on Feb. 16, 2004, while Serrano landed in prison in May 2004 for double murder and kidnap-for-ransom cases. But Serrano says he is a political detainee.

The collaboration between the two has brought positive results after more than two years of staying "under the same roof."

One of the fruits is the establishment of a pre-cooperative store called the SM (Samahan ng Mamimili) at the OMPJ, funded by shares of inmates and jail personnel. With the store's presence, the prison compound now looks like a *talipapa* (flea market).

Enemy lines

Gonzales and Serrano had been at the forefront of clashes between police and the communist New People's Army in the 1990s.

When brothers Michael and Paul Quintos were killed in Occidental Mindoro in 1998 (their family accused their political rival, Gov. Jose Villarosa, of involvement), Gonzales was leading the government's counterinsurgency campaign as provincial police deputy director.

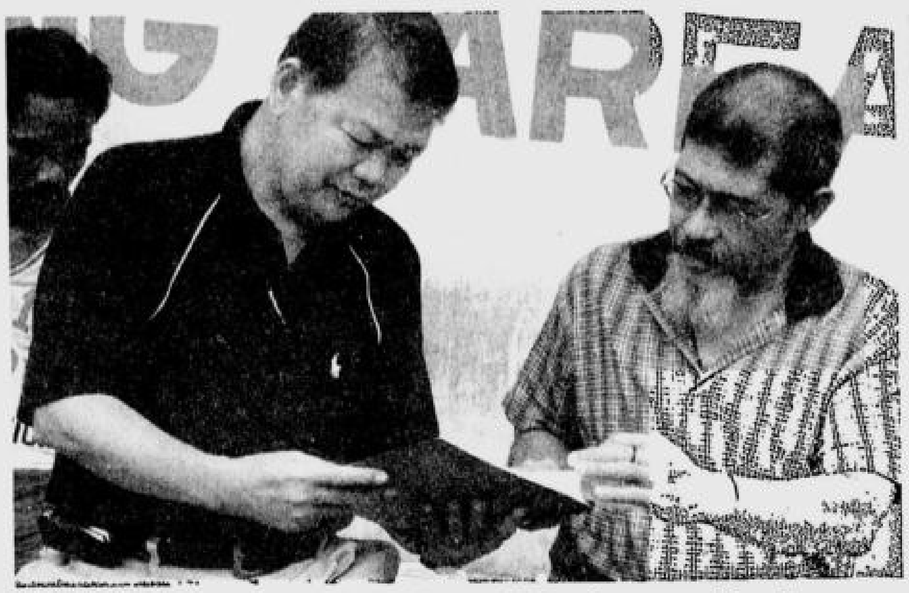
In one instance, Gonzales recalled, he made it appear on national TV that more rebels had surrendered than the actual count. In another, he made journalists believe that 30 NPA rebels were killed in an encounter, although the fatalities numbered only three.

Serrano, on the other hand, related how his group would score against Gonzales' group when the police officer was still a chief inspector in Oriental Mindoro.

Society's trash

"Like some people, I used to look at inmates as pests and society's trash. But having interacted with them made me realize that most of them were victims of circumstances and just needed good legal services to be able to go back to their normal lives," says Gonzales.

Some were jailed although they simply acted in self-defense, he learned.



SENIOR Supt. Rolando Gonzales and former NDF spokesperson Eduardo Serrano are now partners in promoting the welfare of prisoners. MADONNA T. VIROLA

His job as warden has brought him deeper into the lives of the inmates. He has developed a personal attachment to them and would go out of his way to help them.

Serrano saw the sincerity in Gonzales.

"I was encouraged to make suggestions for jail improvement because we were being listened to," he said.

The projects, in turn, helped Serrano overcome boredom that strikes many inmates.

Sincerity

Serrano poses a big challenge, the warden has thought, "because he is a personality."

"There have been persistent reports the NPA will get him out of jail. Whatever happens to him is my responsibility so I requested him to cooperate for his safety," Gonzales said.

Serrano believed that Gonzales respected him so he, in turn, respected the warden's policies.

A common interest has been the welfare of the inmates. Both speak passionately about jail projects and other possibilities. They conduct consultations with the inmates on what projects to undertake.

Talents

The inmates' talents and energies find a productive venue in a variety of projects, like making decors during Christmas and kites during summer, *abaca* handicrafts, frame-making and other livelihood activities.

Ten inmates provide reflexology services, and some police officers have availed themselves of these.

Inmates have also undergone training from the Technical Educational Services and Development Authority.

Lately, some were baking *pan de sal* and doughnut, prepared in the evening with a small oven toaster. "The toaster's timer wakes me up at 3 a.m. and it smells good," smiles Serrano.

Cassava pudding is also baked.

Also, 52 inmates are participants in the alternative learning system program of the local Department of Education Division Office in Calapan City. The sessions of the "Aksyon para sa Karunungan at Abilidad ng Preso (Akap)" on Mondays and Fridays will enable them to complete their elementary and high school education.

Unity

The pre-cooperative store is now the biggest project in the facility, with 120 detainees and 11 jail personnel as members.

Starting with a P50 minimum share from each inmate and a P10,000 loan from Gonzales, the SM store has had a record purchase of P1 million since it was put up in February.

The inmates are happy to be earning from their purchases through the *balik tangkilik* (return of patronage) scheme. Total purchase per month is computed and part of the store's income is shared with the members. For example, a P500 purchase a month yields a P30 patronage dividend.

Inmates keep track of their purchases. One would see them holding notebooks and monitoring sales before they are locked up at around 4 p.m.

Products are cheaper compared to those bought outside, and errand fees are done away with.

Nonmembers, like employees from government offices adjacent to the jail compound, also buy at the store.

Inmates, like couple Jefferson and Mitos del Mundo, are able to send money to their three children from the earnings in their projects.

Pilot

To help the inmates' spouses, an SM will be piloted in each of the 10 barangays with an initial P100,000 funding from the provincial government. A buying station will be set up to supply the SM-OMPJ.

"The collateral is the wife's husband. They will remit when they visit the jail," says Gonzales with a smile.

The joke is that the jail's pre-cooperative store has the strictest security in town because it has inmates who used to be in the Army, NPA, paramilitary, religious sector and police to guard it.

"All are concerned with the store because it's a concern of the stomach," noted Serrano.

Bonus to serve

Gonzales said that having been appointed warden was "a bonus for him to serve."

He is able to apply what he has learned about rural development from the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and the Armed Forces of the Philippines when he was a still a lieutenant in 1975.

"I want to help change society's negative perception of the inmates that leads to ostracizing them," he said.

His eligibility as a warden has been questioned by the Civil Service Commission, but Gov. Arnan Panaligan has shown confidence in the man by asking his legal staff to file a motion for reconsideration.

Gonzales said he hoped his performance would be given more weight than his eligibility.

On the other hand, because of his background in community health, Serrano was designated by city health officer Liza Llanto as medical officer at the jail. He is also learning and doing work in accounting, the course his father actually wanted for him, and courses on paralegal work.

"The inmates, the guards and everyone here are actually part of the people I want to serve," he said.

Otherwise, he said, he could have chosen to isolate himself and let the government do its job.

Serrano said he enjoyed a balanced life in prison.

He watches TV with the inmates. "I am even able to do my cross stitching of 'Freedom' in different languages. I've become an addict to the INQUIRER's number puzzle Sudoku," he said with a smile.

Still, he said, his biggest realization was "to be relevant."

Gonzales said both he and Serrano have sacrificed a lot in serving the people.

"I don't believe that he (Serrano) has no God with the good things that he is doing. He is better than many religious people who are lacking in action," he added.

Hopes

When trusted and supported, the prisoners can turn idle moments into productive ones, the warden said, citing experiences in the OMPJ.

He has proposed a bigger area, where they can farm and raise animals, to the provincial government. The prison compound is at present occupying a half-hectare lot in the city.

The OMPJ is congested with 355 inmates occupying a space that could accommodate only 300 people, Gonzales said.

"There is also an urgent need for legal assistance to the inmates," he said.

Retired chief of Southern Luzon command misses Ka Roger

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

WHEN LT. GEN. PEDRO Cabuay Jr. ordered the master sergeant of the Army's Southern Luzon Command to lower his flag during the turnover ceremony at Camp Nakar in Lucena City on July 31, culminating his more than three decades of soldiering, what lingered in his mind was the memory of his departed parents.

"My father wanted me to become a lawyer. I told him, 'I'm sorry,' when I decided to enter the military service. But I believe, my late parents would have been happier now because I have served my country and my people well, and am now retiring as a three-star general," Cabuay said two days before his retirement.

"I dedicate my retirement to my parents," said the general, who hails from San Carlos City in Pangasinan. He relinquished his post to Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, former chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

When he was a captain, he had found time to finish his law course at the Saint Louis University in Baguio City.

LT. GEN. Pedro Cabuay Jr., now retired, welcomes the arrival of veteran troops from Mindanao for deployment to insurgency areas in Southern Luzon. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

Cabuay summed up 34 years of military life as fruitful and fulfilling. "If I would have to do it again, I would ... The experience, the excitement is something that you will never earn even in the high echelons of the corporate world," he said.

Shining moments

One of the shining moments in his career was leading his troops in rescue operations after flash floods and landslides struck northern Quezon in 2004.

He assumed the Solcom post on Oct. 26, 2004.

This July, Cabuay led the survivors in unveiling the "Soldiers of Mercy" monument as a tribute to the heroism of soldiers who hiked day and night in muddied roads to rescue the victims and bring relief goods to them.

Having started in 1973 as a platoon leader of the 18th Infantry Battalion that saw action in Sulu, he expressed concern over soldiers on the battle front.

Asked what he would have given a soldier if he had the opportunity, he suggested a house. "When a soldier joins the service, he will leave his family for a long period. It's already hard for any soldier to be in the field, fighting the enemies and yet he does know how his family is doing. If the military can solve the housing problem of the soldier, things would have fallen into proper places."

In January, Cabuay announced Solcom's aim of crushing the communist New People's Army in Southern Luzon within the next three years, even before President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered government troops to achieve the same goal two months ago.

"At least 30 percent of the insurgency in Southern Luzon has been solved," Cabuay said. The NPA has lost in the insurgency scorecard—killed ratio and firearms recovered—in the region, he claimed. "We have the upper hand."

As AFP deputy chief of intelligence and chief of the Army's Intelligence Service Group, Cabuay had been credited with the capture of several CPP leaders, like Nilo de la Cruz, Arturo Tabara and Jorge Madlos.

He wanted to include in his list of accomplishments the arrest of CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, but he never realized it. Rosal "is now neutralized because he does not want to talk to me, even if I was not able to arrest him. Maybe his fate is not to be captured or to die."

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Palace orders Poro Pt. port closure

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS ordered the temporary closure of the seaport at Poro Point in La Union until the Court of Appeals rules on a petition asking for the lifting of a temporary restraining order issued against a government takeover of port operations.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in a briefing, said all vessels docking at Poro Point would be diverted to Subic and there, unload their cargo.

Ermita did not elaborate on the reasons for the Malacañang order, but said it was in line with a cease and desist order issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the failure of the port operator, Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), to secure an environmental compliance certificate.

PPIC, a joint venture of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), said in an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo that the CDO issued by the DENR was just part of a ploy to boot BHI out of the port.

It said the takeover of the port by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) "is not about the environment."

"In fairness to Secretary Angelo Reyes, and the DENR, we noted that the initiative for an environmental order to halt our operations came from the PPMC (Poro Port Management Corp.) and not from the secretary's office," said PPIC in its open letter.

PPMC, headed by Felix Singson Racadio, a relative of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, will issue an advisory for vessels entering Poro Point to instead go to Subic, according to Ermita.

MEMBERS of the PNP stand guard as the PPA takes over port operations from a joint venture firm that has a 25-year contract to operate the port.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Narciso Abaya, president of BCDA, said earlier in a visit to the INQUIRER that it was the port's operations that are causing pollution at Poro Point's water and air.

He said while he knew that the pollution would continue even if the operations were handled by the PPA, he asked for the PPA help in running the port because a disruption of port operations would translate to hundreds of millions of losses for the region.

At least 70 interisland and ocean-going vessels use the port every month, he said.

Ermita did not say how the government would deal with the losses that Abaya had foreseen and tried to prevent through transferring the port operations to the PPA.

Abaya said all PPIC had to do was acquire an ECC from the DENR because that was what it lacked in its operations.

He can't elaborate on questions, however, why a takeover of the port operations was the government's answer to the lack of an ECC by PPIC.

In a visit to the INQUIRER on the same day that Malacañang issued the closure order, Singson said he was staking his life and career to have the port contract with PPIC rescinded because it was "disadvantageous" to the government.

Singson said he has no personal interest in rescinding the port contract except for his concern for the economy of the Northern Luzon region. He said he has his own port and does not need the Poro Point for his personal business.

"Poro Point will not be operational until petition filed by the government (DENR) to set aside the TRO (temporary restraining order) is resolved by the Court of Appeals," Ermita said.

Singson claimed that PPIC obtained a "sweetheart deal" under the Estrada administration to operate the port for 25 years at P50 million a year. Prior to PPIC's entry, the port earned up to P20 million a month.

PPIC claimed that the DENR and PPA attempts to take over the port were just the latest in the continuing bid of Singson to take over the port since 2001.

Singson admitted it, saying Rogelio Singson, former head of BCDA and a distant relative of his, had been trying to have the contract renegotiated or rescinded "but he was powerless against the BCDA board."

Gov't lawyer says no deal review, reversal

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The chief of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel yesterday said she has not reviewed the contract between the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the operator of the Poro Point seaport in La Union.

Neither has OGCC chief Agnes Devanadera prepared an adverse legal opinion on the validity of the contract nor was she working to have it rescinded.

Devanadera, in a telephone interview, said her office has not resorted to such actions because BCDA, "in the first place, made no such requests."

"I don't know what he is talking about," she said of the claims by Brigido Dulay, lawyer of the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), BCDA's partner in the joint venture.

Earlier, Dulay appealed to Devanadera to respect the three previous OGCC opinions upholding the validity and legality of the agreement between BCDA and the Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), the partners in the PPIC joint venture, in the operations of the Poro Point seaport.

Dulay aired the appeal amid reports that Devanadera was supposedly preparing a reversal of the previous OGCC legal studies.

"There is no request from BCDA to do a review so why should I be pressured?" she said, also in reaction to reports by INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz on the takeover of the port in San Fernando City by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

The PPA took over the operations of the Poro seaport from PPIC on Aug. 5 on the request of BCDA president Narciso Abaya.

Abaya said he did not want disruptions in operations expected in the issuance to PPIC of a cease and desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for lack of an environmental compliance certificate.

PPIC officials suspected that the ECC issue was another way of ousting the firm from the port and handing it over to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"We can't be initiating anything of that sort (reverse previous OGCC opinions and rescind the contract) because as lawyers, we can only be assisting our clients," Devanadera said. The OGCC acts as counsel for government-owned and -controlled corporations like BCDA.

As for the declaration of the nullity of the contract, she said: "You need the court to do that. I have not rescinded anything." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, with reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Chavit presses probe, links Abaya to port mess

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS "CHAVIT" Singson yesterday pressed for a Senate investigation of what he said was a sweetheart deal to run the Poro Point seaport, accusing the president of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) of taking part in a plan to keep the port in the hands of its current operator.

In a visit to the INQUIRER, Singson also said he would resign as governor of Ilocos Sur if he was proven wrong in saying that the deal was not bid out during the time of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"I will fight for this," Singson said. "I put my career and life at stake here."

Singson said Narciso Abaya, BCDA president, was part of a plan to protect the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) and prevent its ouster from the port.

PPIC is a joint venture between BCDA and private firm Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI).

"*Kasama si Abaya diyan* (Abaya is with them)," said Singson.

Abaya earlier said the contract of PPIC to run the port was valid.

In a statement that he carried with him, Singson said the contract for PPIC to run the Poro Point seaport was awarded under pressure from the Estrada administration that then acted in favor of the ousted President's cronies.

The PPIC, in a statement reacting to Singson, said the contract was not bid out because it was a project solicited by the BCDA.

"Poro Point should benefit the entire region, not just a handful of politically influential businessmen," said Singson, who was key to the ouster of Estrada and the rise to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

Singson, in his statement, said the contract required the PPIC to develop the area that was awarded to it "but no development has been undertaken."

PPIC had said that it couldn't execute its development plan because BCDA has failed to deliver at least 19 hectares of land that it committed to deliver under the port contract.

In his statement, Singson said the government should not "give in to the media blitz and return the seaport to PPIC."

In the interview with the INQUIRER, Singson said former BCDA head Rogelio Singson, whom he said was a distant relative, tried in the past to have the contract rescinded "but he was powerless."

"The BCDA board had the power," he said.

A former BCDA official, who requested anonymity, was quoted by the INQUIRER in earlier reports as saying Singson wanted the contract nullified as early as 2001.

Crop disease destroys ₱36M in Isabela rice plants

ILAGAN, ISABELA—A CROP DISease has destroyed at least P36 million worth of rice plants in 25 towns and Cauayan City in Isabela, the provincial agriculture chief said.

Danilo Tumamao, Isabela agriculturist, said the tungro virus, transmitted by green and brown leafhoppers, hit *palay* farms and destroyed 15,212 metric tons of crops this month.

Tumamao said at least 11,600 hectares of rice farms were damaged by the virus.

"We have yet to establish the origin of the [leafhopper] attacks but the damage has been felt province wide," he said.

According to the Philippine Rice Institute (PhilRice) website (www.philrice.gov.ph), tungro is caused by the rice tungro bacciliform virus (RTBV) and rice tungro spherical virus (RTSV).

PhilRice said the presence of one or both viruses in the plant produces different symptoms such as mottled leaves, mild to severe stunting, mild yellowing of leaves, and yellow to orange leaves.

It said the only means of transmission is through the green leafhopper ("*berdeng ngusong kabayo*") that feeds primarily on rice, especially on young and susceptible rice plants.

Tumamao asked town and city agriculturists to urge local government officials to declare their areas under a state of calamity to access funds to buy insecticides and to stop the crop disease.

Officials of San Mateo town declared their town under a state of calamity and ordered the release of P200,000 to buy insecticides to help farmers whose farms were damaged by the tungro virus. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Pampanga media slam libel case as harassment

ANGELES CITY—MEMBERS OF the Pampanga Press Club scored Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno for using libel to harass a reporter of a local daily who wrote about an alleged anomaly in a project funded by the official.

"Politicians should not be onion-skinned in the face of critical stories," PPC chair Ashley Jay Manabat said before PPC members accompanied Dante Fabian, Sun.Star Pampanga reporter, to the office of Assistant City Prosecutor Ronaldo Duro on Tuesday.

Duro gave Fabian until Sept. 12 to file a counter-affidavit.

Nepomuceno sued Fabian over three stories on the alleged P19-million water pipes scam in Pampanga's first district, which the official represents.

Nepomuceno called the stories a form of "malicious reporting."

Narciso Sula, the paper's general manager, said Fabian was "singled out" while one of the sources of the stories, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, Nepomuceno's long-time political rival, was spared from litigation.

Nepomuceno denied using the libel suit to harass Fabian.

"If I had wanted to harass him I would not have resorted to this legal process," he told the INQUIRER on Wednesday. "All I want from [Fabian] is fair reporting."

He said Lazatin and the others liable for the "defamatory" stories would be given their day in court. The paper was not cited as a respondent.

But Fabian said he had always gone out of his way to seek Nepomuceno's side. Always, he said, Nepomuceno did not reply.

His reports, Fabian said, were based on the official letters of barangay leaders who claimed they did not receive water pipes distributed in 2005 by the Department of Public Works and Highways and funded by Nepomuceno's priority development assistance fund (PDAF) or pork barrel fund.

In his complaint, Nepomuceno said at least five investigation reports from the Office of the Ombudsman for Luzon, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and the Commission on Audit's regional office "confirmed my innocence and that the alleged anomaly that they were trying to impute unto me were proved baseless."

Fabian said there was reason to pursue the story because village leaders continued to report the nondelivery of the water pipes.

Lazatin said he exposed the supposed anomaly in light of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign against graft.

"[Fabian] should not have been sued. Nobody should be sued because there are documentary evidence that something went wrong," Lazatin said.

He said it was not Nepomuceno but the officials' employees who should be compelled to make a proper accounting of the "missing pipes." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

ROUNDUP

CLSU outstanding teacher

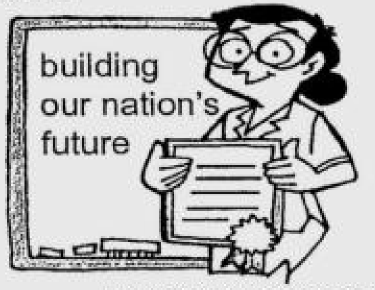


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—An education professor of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) here has been named the outstanding teacher for higher education in the 2006 Metrobank Foundation Search for Outstanding Teachers. Dr. Soledad Mina-Roguel, a professor of CLSU's College of Education, is the third CLSU teacher selected for the award in the 22-year history of the Metrobank's annual search. Mina-Roguel also teaches in the university's Institute of Graduate Studies and Open University.

Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cop killed in Laguna ambush

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—At least three unidentified men gunned down a Laguna policeman while he was on his way to work in Liliw, Laguna on Wednesday morning. Laguna police director Senior Supt. Luisito de Leon said PO2 Mauro dela Cruz, assigned to the Magdalena Municipal Police Office, died from at least seven bullet wounds.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

3 dead in Batangas mishap

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three people, including a village chief and two minors, were killed while seven others were severely injured when a van they were riding in collided with a truck in Taal, Batangas on Sunday night. Batangas police director Senior Supt. Edmund Zaide said Ireneo Sime, 55, a barangay captain; Lander Forio, 5; and his brother Lorence, 3, died on the spot. The victims, all residents of Barangay Buli of Taal, were in a Mitsubishi L300 van when it crashed into a 10-wheel truck driven by Joel Maala.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

New medic kit saves soldier

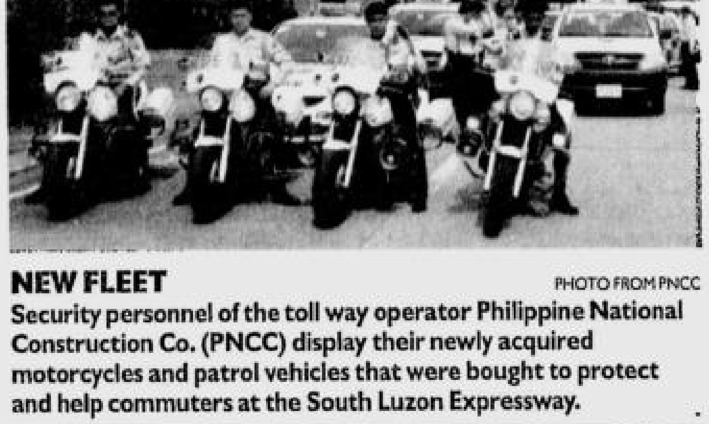
LUCENA CITY—Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno, chief of the civil-military operation of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command, said the life of a wounded Army soldier, Corporal Sazon, was saved by the military's newly issued combat medical kit. "Although critically wounded, the soldier's life was saved by the squad's aid man using the new combat lifesaver system kit. It's capable of conducting emergency treatment on combat sustained injuries," Parayno said. However, he said not all medics of the Army's nine-man squad knows how to use the kit. "No training, no kit," he said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Emergency at Sultan Kudarat

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—Mayor Tocao Mastura has called for an emergency meeting with village officials and the police following the recent arrest of three suspected terrorists here. Mastura said the cooperation of every official was very important. On Saturday, three suspected bombers were arrested in the town while another suspect was killed during a separate operation.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao



NEW FLEET

PHOTO FROM PNCC

Security personnel of the toll way operator Philippine National Construction Co. (PNCC) display their newly acquired motorcycles and patrol vehicles that were bought to protect and help commuters at the South Luzon Expressway.

Pay hike in the works for public teachers

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The government has finished a two-year compensation survey on the salary grades of government employees, indicating it may agree to approve pay increases even for public school teachers, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

"I think there is a serious attempt to adjust the salary grades," he said.

He declined to disclose the details of the survey and its recommendations but said "the light at the end of the tunnel is there and the amount is significant."

It was not clear if the process would need an amendment to the salary standardization law.

Lapus said while the adjustments have yet to come to the Department of Education that comprises a third of the government bureaucracy, the agency has included P300 million in the national government's P46-billion supplemental budget. This is still being discussed in the Senate.

The DepEd share covers the agency's payment for the automatic step increment (salary adjustment depending on years of service) amounting to P500 million. The remaining P200 million will be taken from the savings of the agency.

"We hope the Senate sees this as meritorious," Lapus told reporters here.

He said retired teachers could also look forward to recovering the 3-percent increase in the share of government premiums to the Government Service Insurance System that they shouldered since 1997.

"This is ironical but the employees agreed to that. Otherwise, they won't get their retirement pay," he said.

DepEd accounts for 10,000 retirees yearly.

For retired teachers and other employees, Lapus said the Department of Budget and Management has included a P3.3-billion settlement pay in the supplemental budget.

The DepEd budget, on the other hand, should grow to more than 10 percent yearly based on the annual enrollment growth of 2.5 percent and inflation rate of 5 percent, he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

6 rob suspects killed as police chase ends in Tarlac City clash

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Luigi del Puerto
in Manila

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—SIX suspected highway robbers, including their leader, were killed in a clash with policemen in Tarlac City on Tuesday night, police said.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director, said a police chase for members of the Zara Gang that started in Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac, ended in a gunfight along the Romulo Highway at Barangay Tibag in Tarlac City at about 10 p.m.

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police director, identified three of the slain suspects as Darius Zara of Laguna; Sotero Diaz of Navotas City; and Jomar Borromeo of Camarines Sur. No identification cards were found in the three other suspects.

The suspects' Kia Pregio van, Bartolome said, breached a police checkpoint in Sta. Ignacia town at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, prompting policemen to chase the group.

He said it was at the checkpoint in Tibag that the suspects "opened fire at the policemen." No policeman was hurt in the fight, he said.

Police reported recovering a shotgun, a .45 cal. gun, two hand grenades and the van from the encounter site.

Bartolome said Zara, the syndicate's leader, was arrested in Tarlac City in 2003 and was charged that year with highway robbery with homicide and frustrated homicide.

But he said the cases against Zara were dismissed.

Bartolome said the group resumed its activities in June last year. He said the suspects preyed on cargo trucks plying three national highways in Tarlac, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija.

Police reports showed that the latest fatalities have raised to 30 the number of highway robbers and members of kidnap-for-ransom groups killed in Central Luzon since May this year.

Clashes on Aug. 12, July 29, July 14, April 2 and May 12 in Tarlac, Bataan and Bulacan led to the death of 24 leaders and members of the Velazquez, Dumlao, Dacpano and Ilonggo robbery and kidnap-for-ransom groups.

"They're not safe here in Region 3. They better—if they plan something—keep away," Rafanan said.

Bartolome said the gang tried to stop a 10-wheel truck carrying UFC products at the MacArthur Highway recently.

"The gang shot at the truck but the driver did not pull over," Bartolome said in a statement.

"Definitely, this is a positive response to the directive of the PNP Chief (Director General Oscar Calderon) to eliminate syndicated crime groups," Rafanan earlier said.

"Hopefully, this would instill fear in them (organized crime groups). We won't tolerate them here," Rafanan said.

Gov't agent killed in gunfight with drug suspects

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—An anti-narcotics agent of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Calabarzon was killed while three other policemen were wounded in a clash with suspected drug pushers in Imus, Cavite Monday, police said yesterday.

Supt. Raul Bargamento, PDEA-Calabarzon director, identified the fatality as Gypson dela Rosa, 36, a civilian agent of the office.

Wounded were SPO2 Jerry Abalos, SPO1 Jesus Platon and PO3 Ronald Valdez, all of the PDEA office in this camp.

Bargamento said his men were about to leave Barangay Anabu 2E after a buy bust operation inside the house of suspected drug dealer Almario Narvaez, 53, when they were fired at by armed men at about 3:30 p.m.

He said the still unidentified armed men were with the arrested suspect.

The policemen retaliated, forcing the suspects to flee the area, he added.

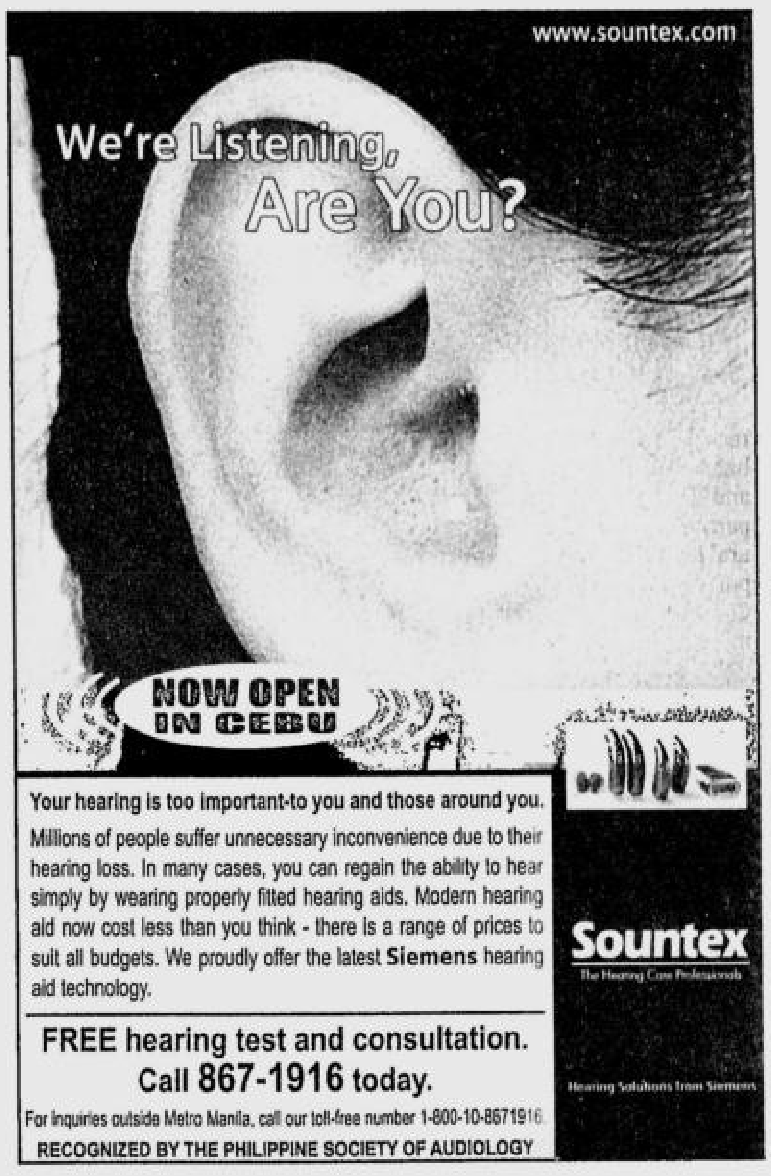
Bargamento said Dela Rosa died on the spot while the three wounded policemen were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Narvaez and his alleged henchman, Rolando Lavarez, 43, were arrested after PDEA personnel seized 100 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth P300,000 from them.

Bargamento said the suspects belonged to the Sarno Drug Syndicate.

He said they launched a pursuit operation to arrest group leaders Luisito Sarno, Lydia Alindog and Myrna Camaysa.

Recovered from the suspects were a US Browning cal. 30 machine gun, a shotgun, a cal. 30 Carbine, grenades and gun scopes. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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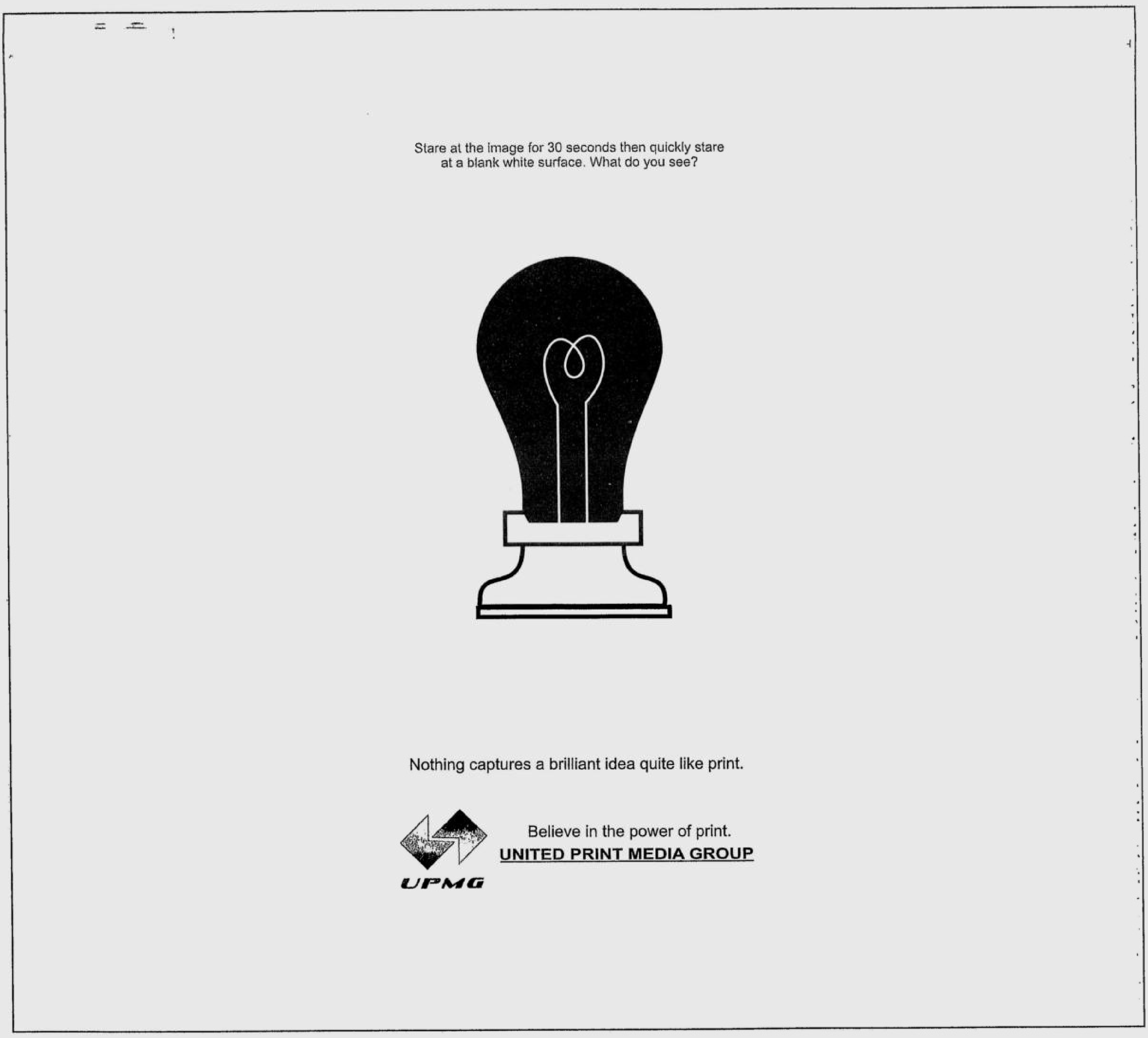

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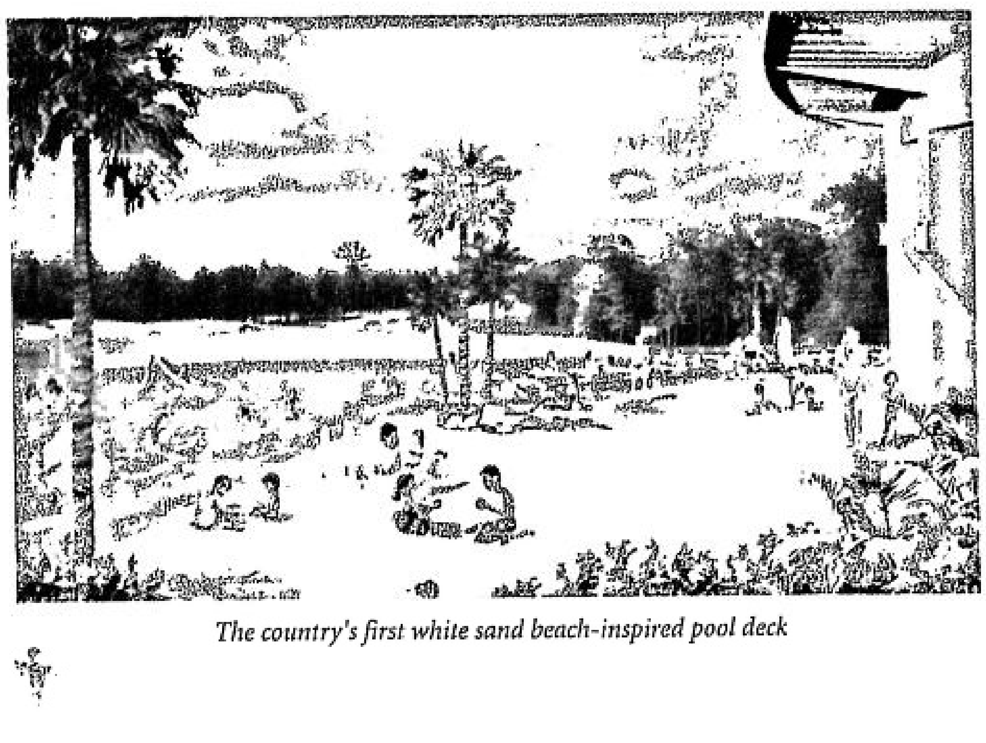

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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RESIDENTS of a shanty town on Santolan Road in Quezon City guard household items they were able to save after a fire hit the area yesterday. A man was hurt while dozens lost their homes in the blaze.
RAFFY LERMA

Hour-long fire hits QC barangay

By DJ Yap

AN HOUR-LONG BLAZE ATE UP SEVERAL shanties on Santolan Road in Quezon City yesterday, leaving one person hurt and dozens homeless.

The fire started at 8:35 a.m. and was believed to have originated from the house of Jackelyn Salazar at 183 Santolan Rd., Barangay Valencia.

According to a report of the Cubao police—which conducted a parallel investigation with the fire department—the fire quickly spread to adjacent houses since the structures were mostly made of light materials. At least 10 shanties were gutted.

A barangay security development officer identified as Jeremiah Buhayo hurt his shoulder, PO2 Fernando Balugay Jr. said in his report. The fire was put out at 9:32 a.m. No estimate of the damage was immediately available.

Boys Town OIC, 5 volunteers fired

Minors claim physical, sexual abuse

By Tina G. Santos

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE AND FIVE volunteers of the Boys Town Complex in Marikina City—a facility for underprivileged and abandoned youths run by the Manila City government—were dismissed yesterday on charges of physical or sexual abuse.

Boys Town OIC Daniel Cabangangan and volunteers Eric Sepe, Jolly Divinagracia, Christian Guerra, John Soliven and Paul Navarro, who also served as street educators, were fired by Mayor Lito Atienza after they were found to have beaten up or molested some of the minors living in the institution.

The move was based on the recommendation of a special investigating committee that had looked into the accusations made by some of their victims. Based on records, Cabangangan allegedly made sexual advances to two minors. One of them claimed that in December 2005, Cabangangan asked him for a massage and later told him to spend the night in the officer's quarters.

The victim added that in the middle of the night, he woke up and found the official sleeping beside him naked. The other minor said Cabangangan would caress his private parts. The OIC would also enter the bathroom whenever he was taking a bath.

Cabangangan denied the charges, saying he was a married man and a father, and was incapable of committing any of the acts he was being accused of. Atienza, however, said that "denial is inherently a weak defense ... which cannot prevail over a positive and categorical testimony of a minor victim."

The five volunteers, on the other hand, were accused of beating up four minors who violated the curfew policy requiring wards to be inside their cottages by 6 p.m. On March 3, the minors said a watchman caught them outside their cottage at around 10 p.m. The children said that after they were caught, the five volunteers beat them up, prompting them to report the incident to the Parang Police Station.

Atienza said the five would be barred from future employment in government offices, especially in institutions that deal with and cater to minors.

Lights out for 4 men

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AGENTS OF THE NAtional Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday arrested four men allegedly involved in the theft of over P2 million worth of industrial bulbs used along highways and in gymnasiums in Binondo, Manila.

The suspects were identified as Diolito Santiago, of 2701 Lico St., Tondo, Manila; Eduardo Bobier, of 44-A Marvex Drive, Balintawak, Quezon City; Gerardo Ladob, of 1576 Laguna St., Sta. Cruz, Manila and Liberato Oxina, of 2235 Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Santiago and his alleged accomplices face charges for violation of the Anti-Fencing Law, according to NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) chief Jose Justo Yap.

Yap said the suspects were arrested during an entrapment operation in Binondo a month after Firefly Electric and Lighting Corp. (Felco) filed a complaint in their office.

The Felco officials said that on July 20, their company lost 4,800 pieces of Metal Halide Lamps and High Pressure Sodium Lamps worth P2.6 million.

Yap said each of the lamps cost P400 to P600 each, depending on the wattage.

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3 dead, 11 hurt in Munti road mishap

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THREE PERSONS DIED WHILE 11 others were injured in a jeepney accident at around 6:30 a.m. yesterday in Muntinlupa City.

The Muntinlupa Traffic Police identified the fatalities as P02 Romeo San Miguel, Celso Panugan and Rolando Rellora, the jeepney driver.

Injured were Mylene Sigaya, Ellen Gulungan, Angelica dela Cruz, Joana Enuya, Joey San Juan, Emaliza Tulod, Deo Ilagan, Gerwin Avopenapa, Jennifer delos Santos, Vangie Juan and Potenciano Pena.

No control

Case investigator P01 Jumar Tira said the jeepney was cruising on the northbound route of the Southern Luzon Expressway in Barangay Putatan when Rellora suddenly lost control of the vehicle, causing it to swerve to the right and fall into a creek.

Impact

Tira said the impact of the fall caused heavy damage to the jeepney.

San Miguel and Panugan were killed instantly while Rellora died four hours after the accident at the Alabang Medical Clinic.

The 11 injured passengers were also brought to the same hospital for treatment.

Aquino slay: Are soldiers innocent?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE'S A NEW TWIST TO THE CASE of the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and if the guy who confessed to this writer is to be believed, most of the soldiers now languishing in prison are innocent.

Former M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, first sergeant of the defunct Aviation Security Command (Avsecom), took all the blame and exonerated his fellow enlisted men for the crime.

I interviewed Martinez at the National Penitentiary yesterday.

Looking guilt-stricken, Martinez, who's about to turn 70, said he was in on the assassination plot but his fellow soldiers were not.

It was really Galman who shot the ex-senator, and not Sgt. Rolando Moreno as the court version of the incident had it.

For more details, read my story on page A2.

* * *

I believe Martinez. He has nothing to hide now. He only wanted the truth to come out as he is now a Christian Born-Again pastor.

He said all he wanted was for the others to be set free because they were not guilty.

Martinez's confession, plus the confession made earlier by SPO4 Ruben Cantimbuhan, calls for a retrial of those implicated in the assassination.

The other people implicated by Martinez in the plot should be haled to court if they're still alive. He mentioned Col. Romeo Ochoco, then Avsecom's vice commander, retired Brig. Gen. Romeo Gatan and businessman Herminio Gosuico.

The government should not turn a deaf ear to Martinez's confession. Every minute that the other soldiers (who are innocent according to Martinez) stays in jail is a slap on our judicial system.

* * *

Before I talked with Martinez, I had a long talk with Msgr. Roberto Olaguer, prison chaplain, at the office of National Bilibid Prisons Supt. Juanito Leopando.

Olaguer said he is a friend and adviser to all the convicted soldiers and they all swore to their innocence to him. All, except Martinez who is ostracized by the group, said the priest.

The late former S/Sgt. Cordova Estelo, who was Olaguer's altar boy when he said Mass at the penitentiary, swore to his innocence until his death. Estelo was stabbed dead by a fellow inmate two years ago.

Olaguer said that never in one instance did Estelo say he and the others were involved in the assassination. That was how close the priest was to Estelo.

In short, there was a mistrial of most of the soldiers convicted of the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

Former President Cory Aquino's stock reply that before they should be given pardon or forgiven, all the convicted soldiers should admit to the crime.

But how could they confess to a crime they never committed?

METROBRIEFS

Puzzler for Pasig cops

PASIG policemen are puzzled over the case of a tricycle driver who was found dead inside his tricycle. Aldwin Baesa had been shot several times while a torn piece of cardboard hung around his neck. Written on the cardboard was the message: "*Ako si Totong Holdupper. Ginagamit ko motor ko sa pagnanakaw* (I am Totong Holdupper. I use my tricycle to steal.)" Baesa's body was found on Santos Street in Barangay Palatiw, Pasig City on Tuesday afternoon. Investigation chief Senior Insp. Lorenzo Trajano told the INQUIRER bystanders heard gunshots before the victim was found, but nobody could tell the police what really happened.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Suspects rounded up

MANILA policemen apprehended on Tuesday night 197 suspected criminals and violators of city ordinances. Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, Manila Police District acting director, said the continuous anticrime operations were "part of their campaign to crack down on lawless criminals." According to the reports submitted by all Manila police stations, most of those arrested were allegedly involved in robbery, snatching, illegal gambling and possession of prohibited drugs.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Rodrigo V. Gonzales; 42

RODRIGO V. Gonzales Jr. passed away last Aug. 18. He was 42. He is survived by his wife Cristina Magsambol Gonzales and children Dean, Sean, Rean, Lean and Gean; brothers and sisters Romy, Peping, Nancy, Alma, Becc and Maila. Gonzales lies at the Ascension Chapel, Claret Church in UP Village, Quezon City. His remains will be cremated at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Small billboards just right for Mandaluyong City

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SMALL IS BETTER, ESPECIALLY IF IT concerns billboards.

This is the view of the Mandaluyong government which is studying the possibility of putting a limit to the sizes of outdoor advertising signs allowed in the city, after a giant billboard fell on a Metro Railway Transit 3 (MRT) station along Edsa last Sunday.

Saying the city government should start exercising its police power over billboards, Mayor Neptali Gonzales II has asked the City Council and the Engineering Office to draft an ordinance that would standardize the sizes of billboards in the city. "The sizes of these billboards are getting bigger and bigger by the day. The signs are not only beginning to look like eyesores but also pose as danger to motorists," Gonzales said in a statement.

Strong winds knocked down a huge billboard of Transworld Ads on Sunday morning.

The billboard, measuring about 24 feet by 12 feet, fell on the roof of the MRT 3 Boni Station and a mass of electrical wires. Power in the area had to be shut off. Efforts to take down the billboard without putting motorists and pedestrians at risk created huge traffic jams on the southbound lane of Edsa for several hours.

Bigger billboards, however, abound in Mandaluyong.

"If it already puts the lives of people in danger, it's time to regulate the industry once and for all," Gonzales added.

He said the city government would consult advertising agencies first for the drafting of the ordinance. Companies would also be given two to three years after the approval of the ordinance to adjust the sizes of their billboards.

But Gonzales has no specific size in mind—yet. "The city government will be considerate and open to all options that advertisers are going to recommend as long as these are advantageous for both sides," the mayor added.

He earlier told the INQUIRER that they had already asked Transworld for an explanation on what caused the collapse.

He said the company had all the necessary permits from the city government. If proven to have committed lapses during the construction of the billboard, appropriate charges would be filed against Transworld, Gonzales added.

DID YOU KNOW

THE IDEA of establishing a science high school in the country was first broached by Dr. Leopoldo Torralballa, a Filipino mathematician teaching at New York University in the United States, who patterned it after the Bronx High School of Science in New York City. His idea became a reality in 1963 with the signing of Republic Act 3661 which established the Philippine Science High School (PSHS).

The first students of the PSHS held classes in a rented "matchbox" building near the Quezon Memorial Circle. In 1970, construction of school buildings began on a 7.5-ha lot on Agham Road, Diliman provided by the government. At present, the school has nine campuses all over the country, including the one on Agham Road.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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means
blood on our hands.

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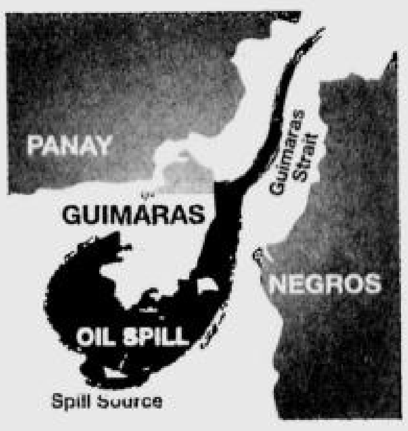

The August 11 oil spill, the biggest in Philippine history, could take up to three years to clean. Unless it is stopped now, more than 144 kinds of fish, 29 genera of coral, marine turtle habitats, 7 species of seagrass, endangered dugongs, several species of whales and dolphins, and over 1,128 hectares of precious mangrove forest will be lost.

Worse, an export-oriented blue crab industry, the livelihood of thousands of fishermen, and their families' health, are also seriously at risk. The threat grows by the minute, as the sunken tanker still holds almost 1.7 million liters of oil. This must be managed immediately.

But as early as 2001, WWF-Philippines had already been working with oil companies and the Philippine Coast Guard on a contingency plan (such as one for Batangas Bay) precisely to prevent and handle emergencies like these.

WWF-Philippines needs more members so we can turn more of these plans into reality now, rather than far-off in the future. Your P600 membership fee helps WWF-Philippines provide not only short-term answers for emergencies like the Guimaras oil spill, but also long-term solutions to protect other fragile ecosystems across the archipelago.

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World powers weigh options on Iran

TEHRAN—THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY was weighing its options Wednesday after Iran responded to an offer aimed at ending a long-running nuclear standoff with a call for "serious talks" but no indication it would freeze uranium enrichment as demanded by the UN Security Council.

Europe said Iran's response, delivered Tuesday, required careful analysis as signs of a split began to emerge among world powers over how to respond, with the United States pressing for sanctions and China appealing for patience.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said Tehran was ready for "serious talks" but no details were made public of its response to a package of incentives offered by world powers in return for a moratorium on enrichment by an Aug. 31 UN deadline.

However, all indications ahead of Iran's submission were that it would not stop enrichment, a process which can be used to fuel nuclear reactors or extended to create the core of an atomic weapons.

Washington suspects the nuclear program is a cover for an attempt to produce a bomb. However, Iran, the world's fourth largest oil producer, insists it is purely for peaceful power generation.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last word on all key policy issues, said Monday that Iran was determined to press ahead with its nuclear program.

And Atomic Energy Organization deputy head Mohammad Saeedi also said Tehran would "provide Europe with an exceptional chance for... a return to the negotiating table," but insisted an enrichment freeze was "no longer possible." Tehran gave the written response to representatives of the five permanent Security Council members plus Germany which drew up the package of trade and technology incentives.

"Iran is ready for serious talks with the 'five plus one' group from Aug. 23 over the offered package," the student news agency ISNA quoted Larijani as telling the envoys.

"We prepared the response to the package with a positive view and even tried to open a way for fair talks by interpreting the many cases of ambiguity logically and positively." He called on the world powers to return to negotiations but made no direct reference to the Aug. 31 deadline for Iran to freeze enrichment or risk UN sanctions.

Even in the absence of details, the United States began urging punitive action while China said sanctions were not the way to resolve the international concerns about the purpose of Iran's nuclear program.

"We will obviously study the Iranian response carefully," US ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said Tuesday.

"But we are also prepared—if it does not meet the terms set—to proceed here in the Security Council... with economic sanctions.

The White House also warned that a nuclear-armed Iran would be "dangerous" to the world, but declined to assess Tehran's reply.

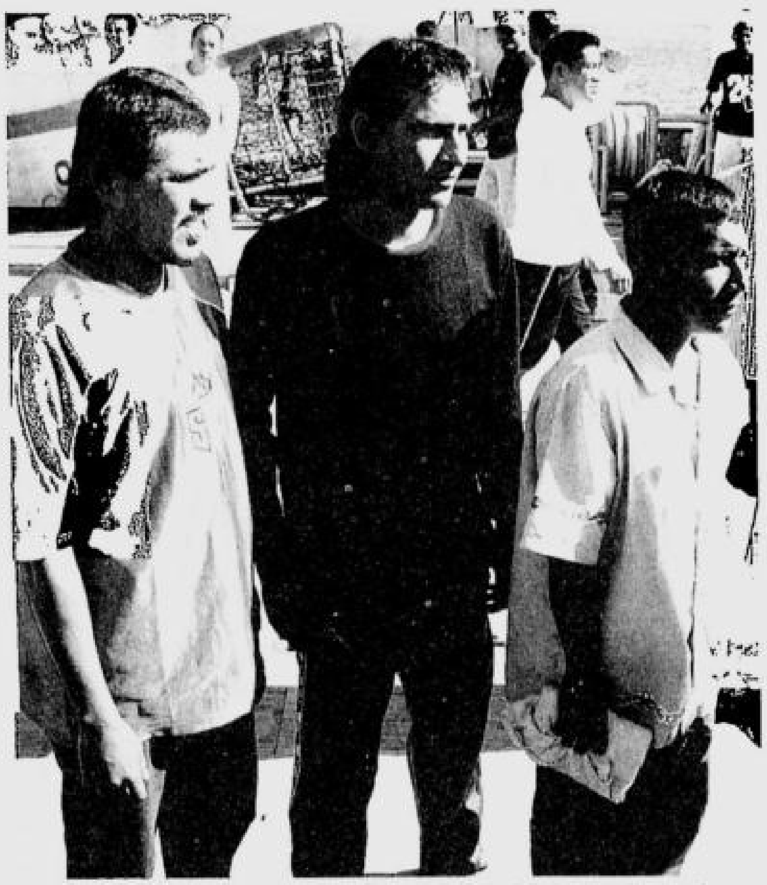
US President George W. Bush made clear on Monday that he believes Iran continuing with the nuclear program "would be a mistake, and dangerous for the region and the whole world," a spokesperson said.

A Chinese official said Beijing opposed sanctions.

"We have all along stood for a peaceful settlement of the issue through negotiations, rather than resorting to force or threatening sanctions," said Sun Bigan, special envoy to the Middle East.

"Resorting to force and sanctions cannot fully solve the problems." EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said "the document is extensive and therefore requires a detailed and careful analysis" and that he would remain in open contact with Larijani.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency faced obstacles carrying out their work at Iranian nuclear facilities in recent days although these were not yet "deemed to be systematic and obstructionist," a diplomat close to the UN nuclear watchdog told AFP. *AFP*



MEXICAN fishermen (from left) Jesus Vidana, Lucio Rendon and Salvador Ordonez arrive in the city of Majuro, Marshall Islands, after being rescued by an Asian fishing ship on Aug. 21. AP

Kurds accused Saddam of poison gas attacks

BAGHDAD—IRAQI KURDS ON TUESDAY gave chilling testimony on how Saddam Hussein's forces carried out deadly poison gas attacks on their villages, as the ousted Iraqi leader listened to their harrowing accounts.

"If we were Iraqis, why did you bomb us?" demanded Najiba Khudair Ahmad, a 41-year-old mother, who was one of several witnesses who confronted Saddam on the second day of his genocide trial at the Iraqi High Tribunal.

Her scarred face bore witness to a chemical weapon attack on her village of Sheikwasan.

The 1987-88 so-called Anfal campaign against Iraq's Kurdish minority allegedly left up to 182,000 civilians slaughtered in air strikes, chemical attacks and armed sweeps by Iraqi forces through designated "prohibited zones" in Kurdish regions.

Ali Mustafa Hama, a Kurdish villager with a thick moustache and spotted headscarf, recalled the evening of April 16, 1987 when he said about eight to 12 jets appeared in the sky.

"The jets started firing on the villages of Belisand and Sheikwasan. The explosions were not very loud," he said, testifying in open court, unlike the witnesses in Saddam's previous trial, whose identities were concealed.

"There was green smoke rising from the bomb, as if there was a rotten apple or garlic smell. Lots of citizens immediately had red eyes and began to vomit. Afterwards it was dark," the middle-aged farmer continued.

Hama was the first witness to testify in Kurdish, the native tongue of his minority community.

Afterwards, Ahmad told the court how she lost family members in the attack on Sheikwasan. *AFP*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The LGU of Godod, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project — Purchase of 70 units Computer with Complete Accessories & Printer
Location — Godod, Zamboanga del Norte
Approved Budget For the Contract — P5,000,000.00
Contract Duration — 60 days
Delivery Period — Within 15 days after Issuance of Notice of Award

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last [state number of years, minimum 2] with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	August 18-31, 2006
2.	Pre-bid Conference	September 1, 2006
3.	Opening of Bids	September 12, 2006
4.	Bid Evaluation	September 13-19, 2006
5.	Post qualification	September 20-26, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Municipal Treasurer

The LGU assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ROMULO B. LOMOCSO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 30, 2006)

Mexican fishermen survivors face probe

MEXICO CITY—THREE MEXICAN fishermen who survived nine months adrift in a small boat in the Pacific Ocean will now be investigated for possible links to drug trafficking, the government said on Tuesday.

The three men, who said they left Mexico's Pacific coast fishing village of San Blas last November, were rescued two weeks ago more than 8,000 km away near the Marshall Islands in the south Pacific.

Their dramatic story of survival on the high seas—staying alive by eating raw birds and fish, and drinking rain water—has captivated Mexico.

Few doubt the men, who are due back in Mexico on Friday, spent nine months lost at sea, but there are doubts over other parts of the story.

All three men were first seen as national heroes but in recent days questions have arisen over why they went to sea in the first place and over two other men who died on board.

"There will no doubt have to be an investigation. This case merits an investigation," Ruben Aguilar, the spokesperson for President Vicente Fox, told reporters on Tuesday when asked about rumored drug connections.

"There are a series of questions and the corresponding authorities will have to investigate." he said.

Mexico's Pacific Coast is a drug trafficking highway and in the village of San Blas the streets are abuzz with rumors that when they began their voyage on a 8-meter boat, the men may not have been fishing for sharks as they claim.

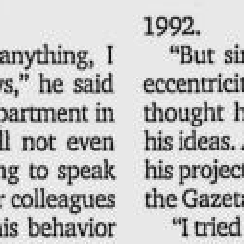
But the men rejected suggestions that they were involved in drug trafficking.

"They are wrong because we went out to catch sharks," Jesus Vidana, one of the survivors, said in a television interview from the Marshall Islands, where they were finally returned to dry land on Tuesday. *Reuters*

Russian wins, declines top Mathematics award

SAINT PETERSBURG—GRIGORY Perelman, a Russian recluse who Tuesday won one of the world's top mathematics prizes, has shunned global fame and cut himself off from the outside world, former colleagues said.

Perelman, 40, snared a Fields Medal, regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for mathematics.



PERELMAN AP

But he declined to accept the medal and did not attend the ceremony with King Juan Carlos of Spain, telling AFP by telephone that he instead spent the day "watching television." Perelman refused to comment on the award.

"I will not tell you anything, I refuse to give interviews," he said by telephone from his apartment in Saint Petersburg. "I will not even tell you why I'm refusing to speak about the prize." Former colleagues in his native city said his behavior fits with a pattern for a man who has rejected international acclaim.

"He was very polite but he didn't talk very much," said Natalya Stepanovna, a former colleague at the Steklov Mathematics Institute in Saint Petersburg.

He resigned from the institute suddenly on January 1 without giving any explanation. Former colleagues said they have not seen him since.

"Maybe he wanted to be free to do his research," Stepanovna mused.

Sergei Novikov, deputy head of the institute, said Perelman started working on the Poincare Conjecture, the maths formula that he is credited with solving, in 1992.

"But since he started displaying eccentricities in his character, I thought he would never complete his ideas. As it turns out, he finished his project," Novikov was quoted by the Gazeta daily as saying.

"I tried to get him into the academy of sciences, I gave him a scholarship, but he stubbornly turned all this down," Novikov said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Korean nuke talks

SEOUL—Diplomatic efforts to restart talks on North Korea's nuclear programme intensified Wednesday as South Korea warned its neighbor against any attempt to stage a nuclear test. President Roh Moo-Hyun's chief security advisor, Song Min-Soon, will leave for China Thursday for two days of talks, Roh's spokesperson said. "He will meet meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and other top officials to have consultations on North Korea's recent missile tests, the nuclear issue and other regional issues," said spokesperson Chung Tae-Ho. Japan's top nuclear envoy Kenichiro Sasae is set to arrive in Seoul later Wednesday for a two-day stay during which he will meet his South Korean counterpart Chun Yung-Woo, foreign ministry officials said. *AFP*

Suspected terrorist jailed

SYDNEY—A Pakistan-born architect accused of plotting a "jihad" bombing campaign in Australia was sentenced to 20 years in jail Wednesday. Faheem Khalid Lodhi, 36, was charged with planning to blow up the electrical grid in the city of Sydney as well as several defense sites in 2003. He was convicted on three terrorism-related charges in June and faced a maximum sentence of life in jail. The indictment said Lodhi, who denied four counts of preparing to commit a terrorist act, had "the intent of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, namely violent jihad." *AFP*

Bomb plot suspects in court

LONDON—Eleven British Muslims appeared for the first time in court on Tuesday over an alleged plot to blow up US-bound airliners in mid-flight that officials say could have been as deadly as the Sept. 11 attacks. Eight were formally charged with conspiracy to murder and plotting to detonate homemade bombs on planes. Three were charged with other terrorism-related offences. The suspects facing the most serious charges are Abdullah Ahmed Ali, Waheed Arafat Khan, Umar Islam, Tanvir Hussain, Assad Ali Sarwar, Adam Khatib, Ibrahim Savant and Waheed Zaman. All spoke only to confirm their names and addresses, except for Hussain who said he had no permanent address. *Reuters*

Call for Marine reservists

WASHINGTON—The US Marine Corps said Tuesday it has been authorized to involuntarily call up 2,500 members of its inactive reserves for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. The call-up was "to fill critical manpower requirements in support of the Global War on Terrorism," the marines said in a statement. It is only the second time since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 that the marines have resorted to involuntary call-ups from its rarely tapped pool of inactive reservists. Those called up will serve for 12 to 18 months, said Major Gabrielle Chapin. *AFP*

India bus mishap

JAMMU, India—A crowded bus swerved off a steep mountain road and plunged into a gorge, killing at least 16 people and injuring 35 others in Indian-controlled Kashmir, media reports said Wednesday. The driver appeared to lose control of the bus as he negotiated a sharp bend in the road and the bus hurtled at least 250 meters down into a gorge, Press Trust of India news agency said. The accident occurred near Sainganji, a village around 190 km northwest of Jammu. Villagers and local police used ropes to reach the bus and help pull out survivors, PTI said, quoting unnamed police officials. At least nine people died instantly, while the others died while they were being taken to a hospital in the nearby town of Rajouri. *AP*

1991

NREA holds Real Estate Confab, Exhibits Today

the Real Estate Quality Network NREA

VP Noli "Kabayan" to keynote speech

The National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA), the country's one-stop trade organization, opens its 11th National Convention and Trade Exhibits today (August 24) until August 26, 2006 at Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, with the theme, "New Direction in the Real Estate Industry."

Guest of honor and keynote speaker Vice President Noli L. De Castro, who is also chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), will present updates on the government's shelter program. VP Noli will also cut the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the three-day affair.

NREA Founder and National President Jose V. Manalad will welcome delegates, participants and guests to a power-packed program of interesting and relevant topics by expert speakers.

VP De Castro
Prez Manalad
Chair Mangio
EVP Manalac
Quimbo
Palafox
Tolentino
Aspe

After NREA executive vice president and overall chairman Alejandro S. Mañalac delivers his conference overview, workshop topics by business and industry leaders follows.

Among the featured speakers is Architect Felino A. Palafox, Jr., who is founder and managing partner of Palafox Associates, adjudged 94th world best by the London-based World Architecture Magazine. Arch. Palafox will discuss "Aerotropolis/Port City" as modern regional growth centers.

Another discussant is Belgian-based RMJM Phils. president Architect Abelardo M. Tolentino, Jr. who will focused on "Smart City: E-tropolis," a wireless network of urban centers linked through fiber optic/digital technology on computer-based systems.

Telecommunications giant Smart Communications president Napoleon L. Nazareno discusses "Broadbanding the Future" with the latest in broadband technology, a new tool in audio-video conferencing.

Architect Brian John P. Mangio, managing partner of N.S. Mangio & Associates, features "Waterfronts: Windows of Opportunity" where city planners and builders design urban dwellings and business centers around or in lateral bodies of water.

On the second day of the Convention, the program schedule opens with PRC 2005 Top Professional in Architecture Nestor S. Mangio, NREA's Board Chairman and recent Hall of Famer, will present "What Makes a Community Great?" or the dynamic issues surrounding successful residential-commercial villages.

Bureau of Internal Revenue Regional (VIII) Director Atty. Nelson M. Aspe then discusses "Tax-Credit Trends" as it applies to property and homeowners.

NREA Honorary Member Atty. Romero F.S. Quimbo, president and CEO of Home Development Mutual Fund, or the Pag-IBIG, showcases success stories in the "Pag-IBIG Financing Program."

Starting the round of afternoon presentations is retired Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay, chairman of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority with his talk on "Capitalizing on Baby Boomers." The creation and promotion of retirement villages will bring in about P40-billion over the next 10 years.

Philippine Navy Capt. Rafaelito L. Sacdalan, chief of the AFP Real Estate Office, discusses the Mixed-Used Plan for "Military Housing" to harmonize soldiers' camps with family-type communal living.

One of the highlights of the Convention is the presentation of a four-year college degree in real estate, as initiated by NREA, by Commission on Higher Education Chairman Dr. Carlito S. Puno.

Breaking into the global arena with Balikbayans, OFWs as well as foreign investors will be the main topic of Mr. Emil Perez, executive vice president of Century Properties in "Tapping the International Market."

Feng Shui master Mr. Andy Tan delves into Chinese astrology and Feng Shui techniques and how it will help land developers and homebuyers in sourcing or building real estate properties.

Prof. Cesar E. Santos, former president of NAR Phils.-QC, resumes a Continuing Education Program seminar for real estate brokers followed by realty marketing guru Alejandro S. Mañalac.

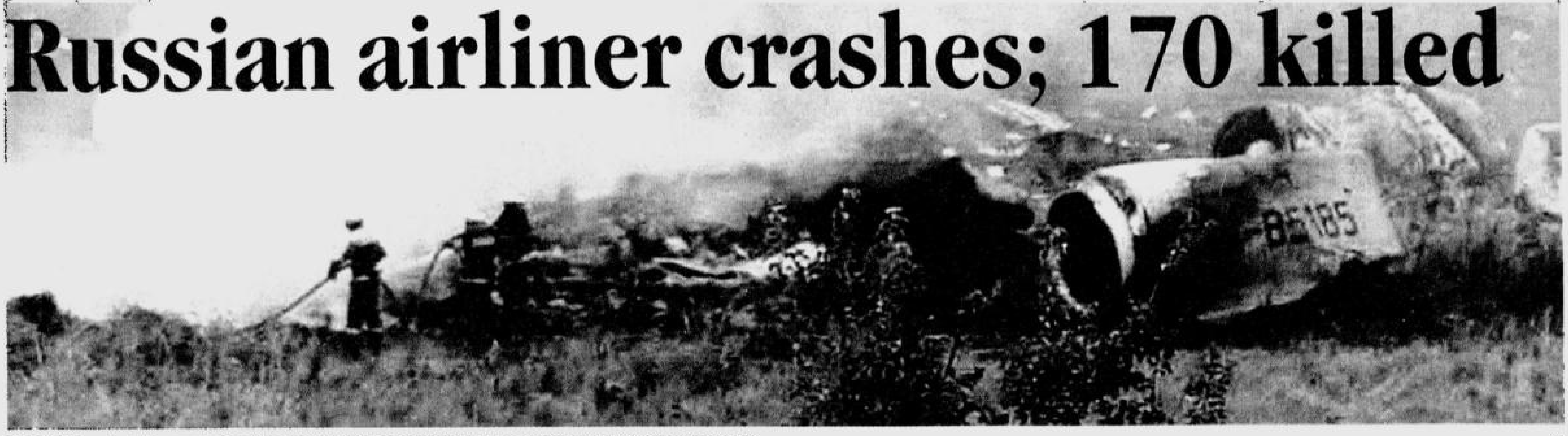
NREA VP-Internal lawyer Axel B. Aguirre is chairman of the Trade Exhibits while Trustee Architect Ma. Ysolde A. Flores of Palafox Associates is Convention Program chairlady.

The Convention topics will earn credits under the Department of Trade and Industry's Continuing Education Program.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Russian airliner crashes; 170 killed



FIREMEN work at the crash site of the Russian Tupolev Tu-154 plane near the Ukrainian city of Donetsk. AP

LOCAL residents react as they look at the crash site of Russian Tupolev Tu-154 plane near the Ukrainian city of Donetsk Tuesday, Aug. 22. AP

SUKHA BALKA, UKRAINE—EMERGENCY workers sifted through the wreckage of a Russian airliner here Wednesday to recover bodies and clues as grief-struck families travelled to the site to identify remains.

Relatives of the 170 victims, which included 45 children under 12, are due to fly out from Pulkovo airport in Saint Petersburg to the scene of the crash 45 km north of the Ukrainian city of Donetsk.

Russian Transport Minister Igor Levitin was among the senior officials who travelled to the crash site to oversee recovery and investigation efforts.

Officials quoted by Ukrainian media said so far only 30 bodies had been recovered. Wreckage however was scattered over a wide area, where plane parts and the surrounding land were scorched.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko spoke about the crash late Tuesday and have declared days of mourning in Ukraine on Wednesday and in Russia on Thursday.

"In the name of all the Ukrainian people, President Viktor Yushchenko expressed his sincerest condolences to Russian President Vladimir Putin," Yushchenko's office said in a statement.

The plane, a Tupolev-154 jet owned by Russia's Pulkovo airlines, was on a flight from the Russian Black Sea coast city of Anapa to Saint Petersburg when it ran into severe weather, officials said.

It was flying at an altitude of 10,000 meters when it was forced to make an emergency landing. Ukrainian officials said the crew had declared a fire on board before the plane went down.

Both Russian and Ukrainian aviation authorities said severe high-altitude weather with driving rain, fierce winds and lightning appeared to have been a decisive factor in the crash.

Irina Andrinovna, spokesperson for Russia's emergency situations ministry, was quoted by Interfax Tuesday as saying that the crash occurred "as the result of a lightning strike as the plane flew into a storm front." Igor Krol, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian emergency situations ministry, said the plane's landing gear then failed to deploy normally and the aircraft crashed "on its belly."

Russian Prosecutor General Yury Chaika announced late Tuesday the opening of a criminal inquiry into a possible "violation of safety rules.

Vasily Nalyotenko, deputy head of Pulkovo, the main airport in Saint Petersburg, said the plane, built in 1992, had flown 24,215 hours and conformed fully to safety regulations.

At the site of the crash, wreckage was scattered over marshlands where the plane went down and a large part of the surrounding area was burned. The area was cordoned off.

The plane, a tri-engine jet similar in size and construction to a Boeing 727, can carry around 180 passengers and has been used as a workhorse of civil aviation fleets in Russia and other former Soviet states. *AFP*

UN warns of prolonged 'security vacuum' in Lebanon

BEIRUT—IT COULD TAKE three months to fill the post-war "security vacuum" in southern Lebanon and even unintended breaches of the truce could reignite fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

"The situation is still extremely fragile," senior UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen told Reuters in an interview in Jerusalem. "Unintended incidents can kick off renewed violence, which might escalate and spin out of control."

The Norwegian was speaking as the United Nations tried to drum up support for a force of 15,000 soldiers to maintain a truce in southern Lebanon after the 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas, which ended eight days ago.

European Union president Finland called a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers for Friday in Brussels to discuss pledges of troops, which have so far been meagre. European participation is seen as vital if the UN is to get an advance party of 3,500 troops on the ground by Sept. 2 as planned.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is expected to attend the talks and then fly on to the Middle East, although UN sources said his plans were not yet set in stone.

Among the few European nations to have made significant troop pledges is Italy, although its promise of 2,000-3,000 soldiers—about a third of the expected European contribution—is dependent on Israel holding to the terms of the truce.

"From Israel, we expect a renewed effort, this time truly binding, to respect the ceasefire," Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema told La Republica newspaper.

"It's fair to expect that Hizbollah put down their weapons, but we cannot send our troops to Lebanon if the (Israeli) army keeps shooting." The UN-backed truce was shaken by an Israeli commando raid in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Saturday, which the UN deemed a ceasefire violation.

The New York-based body says it is also concerned by six Israeli violations of Lebanese air space in the past two days.

Israel says Saturday's raid was a defensive action and, as such, does not constitute a breach of UN Security Council resolution 1701, which brought the war to an end.

The Jewish state has accused Hezbollah of violating the resolution by smuggling arms from Syria and has said its jets need to fly over Lebanon to counter such activities. *Reuters*

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China condemns Mongolia for hosting Dalai Lama

ULAN BATOR—CHINA CRITICIZED MONGOLIA on Wednesday for playing host to Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who Beijing brands a separatist.

Thousands flocked to the capital Ulan Bator to welcome the Nobel Prize-winning Tibetan leader-in-exile to Mongolia, where Buddhism has staged a revival since the landlocked country shrugged off Soviet shackles in 1991.

THE DALAI LAMA REUTERS

But the Chinese government accused the exiled Dalai Lama of having a political agenda, "The Chinese government strongly opposes ... any country providing the Dalai Lama with a venue for his separatist activities," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by state media on Wednesday.

"The Dalai Lama is not a simple or pure religious figure.

He is a political exile who undertakes secessionist activities abroad and damages the unity of nationalities." Mongolia's Foreign Ministry stressed the visit was sponsored by the Gandantegchenlin monastery and not the government.

"The Dalai Lama visited Mongolia several times before through religious channels. He did not attempt to make any political activities or actions in the past. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regards this visit as being similar to previous ones," the ministry said in a statement.

Before Monday, the Dalai Lama had visited Mongolia five times since the early 1990s, most recently in 2002.

The Dalai Lama, who fled his homeland in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, has said he is only after limited autonomy for Tibet. But China, which invaded the Himalayan region in 1950, routinely refers to him as a "splittist" or separatist.

The Office of the President of Mongolia told Reuters on Tuesday that a meeting between Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar and the Dalai Lama was possible.

The Dalai Lama kicked off his week-long visit with a tour of the Gandantegchenlin monastery, the biggest in the country, followed by a public address in front of the monastery's Janraiseg temple, where he extolled Mongolian and Tibetan Buddhist ties in Tibetan and in English.

He described Tibet and Mongolian people as "barbarian"

prior to the spread of the Buddhist religion and endorsed combining traditional learning with modern education.

Mongolia this year marked 800 years since Genghis Khan forged a nation out of the disparate tribes occupying a vast territory between China and Russia. *Reuters*

Police quiz Israeli Katsav president over sex allegations

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI POLICE QUESTIONED President Moshe Katsav on Wednesday over allegations he coerced a former female employee into having sex with him, a police spokesperson said.

Spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld said the questioning at Katsav's residence in Jerusalem could take several hours.

Katsav has denied any wrongdoing and a spokesperson said this week the president was cooperating with the investigation. The scandal is unlikely to have significant political repercussions as Katsav's post is largely ceremonial.

If police bring charges, Katsav is immune from standing trial but could be impeached by parliament if it determines he acted inappropriately. He has been president since 2000.

Police seized computers and documents from his residence on Tuesday.

The scandal involving Katsav and separate allegations against other public figures have darkened the mood in Israel, where the leadership is under fire over the costly month-long war in Lebanon.

Justice Minister Haim Ramon resigned on Sunday after the attorney general said he would indict him over allegedly forcing a kiss on a government employee.

Israel's top government watchdog is examining the terms of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's purchase of a Jerusalem apartment for $1.2 million in 2004.

Military chief Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz has also been criticized for selling his stock portfolio hours after Hezbollah gunmen kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid on July 12 that triggered the Lebanon war. *Reuters*

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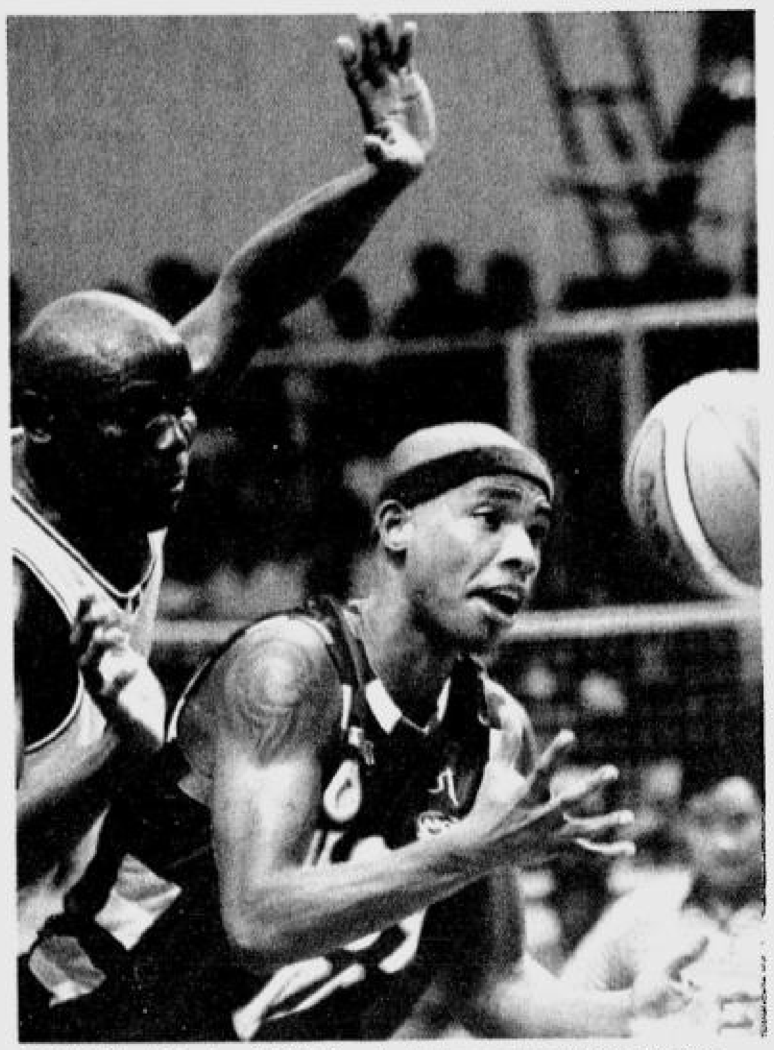
WHAT'S INSIDE

Bata, Django rout Malta in World Cup /A23

Asian giants bag first win; Argentina tops group /A24

Lions clinch incentive; Cardinals enter semis



PCU'S Gabriel Espinas (right) disputes ball possession with San Beda's Samuel Ekwe during their game yesterday. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA MADE SURE OF GETTING THE first of two twice-to-beat incentives while Mapua made sure Letran won't get it just yet.

Flashing its usual deliberate and crippling plays, San Beda stopped Philippine Christian, 73-64, to grab the solo leadership and the first Final Four bonus last night in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Working extra hard on defense, Mapua completed the Final Four cast by pulling off a 54-49 upset of Letran, which nevertheless remained a strong contender for the second incentive in the Final Four.

The Knights dropped to second at 10-2 but kept their two-game edge over the 8-4 Dolphins, who must win their last two games and hope that Letran drops its last two outings to force a playoff for the No. 2 Final Four slot.

The Cardinals, on the other hand, improved to 7-5, in the process eliminating San Sebastian and Perpetual from the fourth and last semifinal berth.

The Red Lions asserted themselves in the fourth quarter and raised the tournament's leading record to 11-1.

Highlighting that PCU collapse was the ejection of coach Joel Dualan with nine minutes left after getting a second technical foul for excessive questioning of calls.

Kelvin dela Peña fired 14 of his 20 points in the last two periods while the Cardinals stymied the Knights with a solid zone defense and became the second conqueror of their Intramuros neighbors.

"It is seldom that either Mapua or Letran gets to sweep each other," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim. "Maybe that's because we can't afford to lose twice to our neighbors."

Mapua limited Letran to just 10 points in the first quarter and six points in the second, enabling the Cardinals to storm ahead with a 17-point lead entering the payoff period.

The scores:

FIRST GAME (Srs)

MAPUA 54—Dela Peña 20, Gonzales 7, Tiongco 6, Pascual N 6, Sumalinog 5, Pascual J 5, Co 3, Del Rosario 2, Mazo 0, Guillermo 0.

LETRAN 49—Aban 11, Bautista 10, Balneg 6, Mondragon 5, Dangcal 5, Jazul 4, Faundo 4, Quinday 2, Daa 2, Realista 0, Melegrito 0.

Quarters: 12-10, 23-16, 44-27, 54-49

SECOND GAME (Srs)

SAN BEDA 73—Aljamal 14, Ekwe 13, Escobal 10, Evangelista 10, Gamalinda 7, Menor 5, Taganas 5, Angeles 4, Tecson 3, Maggay 2.

PCU 64—Belga 10, Castro 9, Espinas 8, Amparado 8, Garrido 7, Santos 6, Hermosa 6, Chien 5, Navarro 3, McCoy 2, David 0, Vidal 0.

Quarters: 12-21, 35-36, 51-50, 73-64

STANDINGS	W	L
*SBC	11	1
*Letran	10	2
*PCU	8	4
*Mapua	7	5
UPHDS	4	8
SSCR	4	8
JRU	3	9
CSB	1	11

*Final Four

GAMES TOMORROW
(N. Aquino Stadium)
12 nn —* St. Benilde vs Perpetual (jrs/srs)
4 p.m. — PCU vs Letran (srs/jrs)

SK Knights slip past Gin Kings

By June Navarro

BRUNEI— THE SK KNIGHTS GOT THE better end of the officiating and escaped with a 109-108 overtime squeaker over the Barangay Ginebra Kings yesterday in the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup at the National Indoor Stadium.

Lim Jae Hyun calmly sank two free throws with two seconds left to seal the second win for the Koreans in three games after referee Gordon Phillips of New Zealand slapped a foul on Rafi Reavis

Reavis was inches away when he challenged Hyun's pull-up jumper near the free-throw arc. Phillips blew his whistle from mid-court, several meters away from the action, while the two other referees, Goh Poh Seng of Singapore and Taiwan's Chan Tai Sheng, who were nearby, didn't make any call.

"It was a great game except for that call," said Eric Menk. "You saw what happened. Rafi (Reavis) was inches away."

Not only did the call cost the Kings' first defeat after a big debut over Jordan, it also spoiled a sensational night for Mark Caguioa.

Simply unstoppable, Caguioa erupted for 46 points on 17 of 31 field goal shooting and was a vital figure in the extra period when the Kings grabbed a 108-107 lead down to the closing seconds. Caguioa also had 12 rebounds.

Menk added 25 points and pulled down nine rebounds, Reavis chipped in 12 and had seven rebounds while Sunday Salvacion finished with 13 points after nailing three of four from three-point range.

Imports Lou Roe and Kebu Stewart paced the SK Knights with double-double figures. Roe tossed in 37 points and hauled down 12 rebounds while Stewart had 18 points and 19 boards.

Moon Kyung Eun scattered 16 points and Hyun had 15, including the clinching free throws he made after missing his first four attempts from the charity stripe.

"This (SK Knights) is one team we don't want to meet any more," said RP assistant coach Aboy Castro, who subbed for head coach Chot Reyes.

Leading the six-team tournament with a spotless 3-0 record, the San Miguel-RP Team must win over the Gin Kings today to gain the top seeding going into the semis.

The scores:

SK KNIGHTS 109—Roe 37, Stewart 18, Eun 16, Hyun 15, Hak 12, Sak 9, Young 2, Hun 0, Man 0, Won 0, Chul 0, Han 0.

GINEBRA 108—Caguioa 46, Menk 25, Salvacion 13, Reavis 12, Adducul 4, Mamaril 2, Echavez 2, Coronel 2, Salangsang 0, Seigle 0.

Quarters: 23-24, 47-44, 76-71, 99-all, 109-108 OT

MARK CAGUIOA: Sterling performance

Generals storm to 3rd win

THE EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals and the Olivarez College Sea Lions stayed unbeaten as they turned back separate rivals in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Olivarez College gym in Paranaque yesterday.

Bong Melocoton tallied 24 points as the defending champion Generals downed the Philippine School of Business Administration, 92-72, to vault to the top of the standings with their third straight triumph.

The Sea Lions overpowered the Gabby Velasco-coached St. Francis Doves, 69-63, to trail the leaders with their 2-0 card.

The Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings turned to their big men in the second quarter to rout the La Salle-Dasmarinas Patriots, 76-50.

Welland Munoz and Ryan Agapito took charge under the boards and checked the Patriots' inside game, enabling the Lightnings to notch their second triumph in three games.

This enabled the Lightnings to bounce back from an earlier setback they suffered in the hands of the Generals, 60-69.

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Jaime shines as Amacu rips New Era

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP MVP CONTENDER CHITO JAIME played worthy of his stature yesterday, drilling in 20 points as AMA Computer downed New Era, 78-67, to finish its elimination assignment at second place in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

The 6-foot-5 Jaime, who plays small forward despite his height, showed why he is the pacesetter for top individual honors, dominating the game and almost single-handedly steering the Titans to their seventh win in nine games.

It was a big follow-up to Amacu's upset of league-leader San Sebastian-Cavite, which remained on top of the standings with an 8-1 record.

Also making it to the next round are STI (7-2), UM (5-4), Centro Escolar (5-4) and NEU (4-5).

The six qualifiers will play a single round in the second round which starts this weekend to determine which four teams will make the semifinals.

Providing help for the Titans was 5-foot-11 Bong Abac who made 18 points. Patrick Mercado and Josel Suarez contributed 10 points each.

The Hunters had a stirring first quarter, holding the Titans at bay with a running game anchored on Mel Mabigat and Joseph Perlas.

But the Titans soon picked up speed in the next quarters, while tightening their defense to take control.

Mabigat finished with 19 points, while Perlas had 11 for the Hunters who managed to make the next round despite a 4-5 slate.

The scores:

AMACU 78—Jaime 20, Abac 18, Mercado 10, Suarez 10, Galvez 5, Vergara 4, Zablan 4, Padilla 3, Gabica 2, Galang 2, De Guzman 0, Edralin 0, Franco 0, Dela Pena 0.

NEW ERA 67—Mabigat 19, Perlas 11, Billones 8, Lapid 6, Naguit 6, Tengco 5, Alastre 5, Maynes 5, Capistrano 2.

Quarters: 19-21, 33-28, 55-50, 78-67.

Mendoza rules Hold'em poker

PAT MENDOZA CAPTURED THE TAGAYTAY Hold'em Challenge Part II Saturday, earning him a seat in the grand finals of the Philippine Poker Tour Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship.

Mendoza leads two other lady qualifiers, Ma. Victoria Concepcion and a player known only by her moniker "Lady M."

This brings to 10 the number of finalists so far after three satellite events. The others are Garry Gabionza, Gregory Pratt and Herbert Uy who topped the first leg, and Valle Verde qualifiers Dennis Gamboa, Jim Fernando, Louie Saludes and Jeff Fernando.

The largest non-wager poker tournament will hold its grand finals on Dec. 16 and 17 at Casino Filipino Pavilion Manila. A total of P3 million will be awarded to the top 30 winners.

Those who finished in the top 10, but failed to qualify earned free satellite passes. They are Joseph Sia, Mike Santangelo, Harry Thomasian, Noel Carreon, July Bueta, Jojo de Guzman and Ricky Gabionza.

Rey Gamboa, chair of the Philippine Poker Tour, said finalists can still play in satellite tournaments since the certificate of guaranteed seats is transferable. In fact, Concepcion became the first player to win two seats in the finals, Gamboa added.

Players who failed to qualify can still play in the finals by paying a registration fee of P30,000.

For details, visit www.PhilippinePoker-Tour.com or call Cindy at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Regal Chief (6), Alfa Romeo (4), Iloranai (1), Reptoid (3)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Victory (1), Lucky Joe (8), U Are My Sunshine (4), I Love This Game (3)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Pride and Joy (4), Arctic Desert (6), Virginia (2), Lord of All (1)

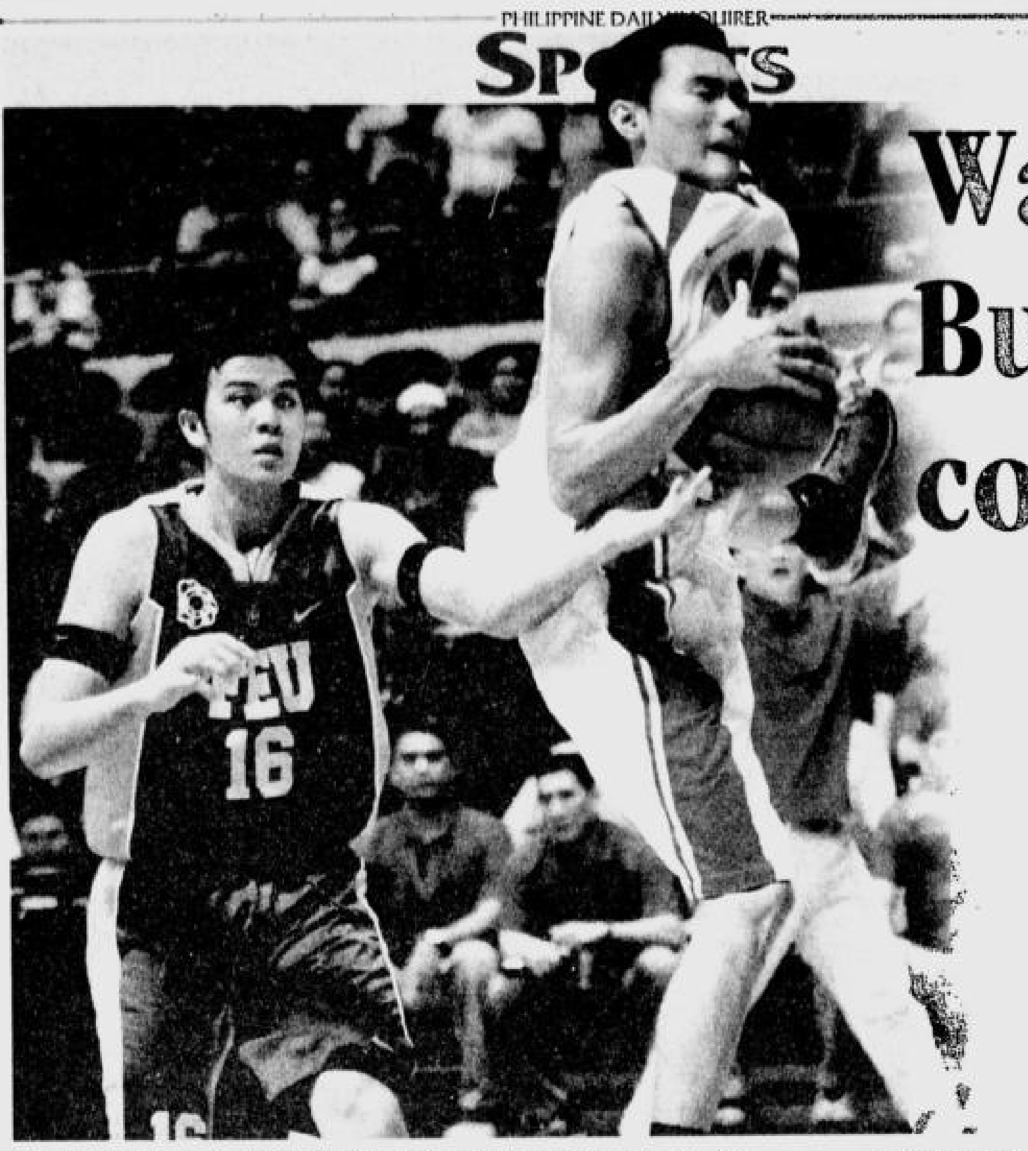
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Top of D'Line (3), Hazit Coming (4), Red Diamond (2), Prime Enforcer (6)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bobon Lancer (3), Go Go Elgene (11), Sol Invictus (2), Cloudness (6), Don Peri Gold (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Nitty Gritty (8), Jay Nicole (3), Chicklet (2), Carmelita (6), Aim And Fire (5)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Big Spender (6), Balwarte (5), Gin Dancer (7), Ops (2), Pride of Masbate (4)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash (7), Tervalac (3), Euphoria (13), My Lady Hannah (12), Virgin Island (5), Lord Gold (10)



UE's Kelvin Gregorio (right) will have his hands full against NU today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Warriors tackle Bulldogs; Tams confront Tigers

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARRIORS HOPE TO FORTIFY THEIR semifinal bid when they tackle the National Bulldogs today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	0
UE	6	2
FEU	4	5
NU	3	5
Adamson	3	5
UST	3	5
UP	2	6

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

The second-running Warriors (6-2) collide with the Bulldogs (3-5) at 2 p.m. and are expected to put up another relentless defensive game that had kept them on a roll.

"NU is a difficult opponent because it has a lot of long-range shooters," said UE coach Pumaren. "We have to play above the three-point area because they insist on that."

The Warriors secured their third straight win via an 86-73 decision over the Far Eastern Tamaraws, who are expecting another tough match against the Santo Tomas Tigers in today's other match at 4 p.m.

"We're back (in the fight) because everyone is now healthy," said coach Pido Jarencio after his Tigers snapped a four-game losing skid with a 75-67 triumph over the Bulldogs.

But Jarencio admits it will be difficult to score a repeat of the Tigers' 90-87 upset win over the Tamaraws.

"Their confidence is back," said Jarencio of the defending champion Tamaraws. "You can't take that away from a champion team, they still won four straight."

The Tamaraws' four-game winning run, however, came to a halt against the Warriors last Sunday.

"The way we're playing right now is very far from the way we played in the first round," said Pumaren. "In our game against FEU, none of the players wanted to quit. Even when I told them to slow it down (when the lead grew to 18 points), they wanted to continue pressuring FEU."

If UE rolls to its fourth straight win today, FEU faces a must-win situation to remain in contention for the remaining twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

The idle and unbeaten Ateneo Eagles have already claimed the first semifinal incentive after streaking to their eight straight win. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP golfers fall to 6th; Singaporeans ahead

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPPINES TURNED ice cold on a hot, humid day, struggling to an awful 9-over 151 aggregate that sent the Filipinos tumbling to sixth place halfway through the Singapore Open Amateur Championship at the Singapore Island Country Club here yesterday.

After a superb four-under-par 67 Tuesday that boosted the RP Team to a three-shot lead over Singapore in team play and a share of the lead in the individual division, Marvin Dumandan limped home with a fat 78.

Dumandan had nines of 38-40 in a one-birdie round marred by four bogeys and two double bogeys.

Jay Bayron, whose first-round 68 complemented Dumandan's fine start in the two-player team event, wavered coming home with two bogeys in the last four holes and wound up with a two-over par 73.

Counting its earlier score of 135, the Philippines had a 36-hole total of 286 even as Singapore, shooting 142 for the day and 280 overall, wrested a one-shot lead over Thailand, which also turned in a 142 for 281 total.

Sri Lanka played a steady round of 143 as it moved up to third with a 284 while New Zealand and India shared fourth place with 285s after a 139 and 140, respectively.

Dumandan and Bayron blamed poor putting for their day-long struggle on the unpredictable surface of the Bukit layout. They headed straight to the practice green to polish their stroke after signing their scorecards and vowed to bounce back with solid rounds in the last two days.

"Our putting just didn't click as it did in the first round. But we'll fight back tomorrow (today)," said Dumandan in Filipino.

Dumandan flubbed two birdie opportunities inside five feet, missed at least three par putts within four feet and fell to 20th place with a 145.

"I just lost my feel (in putting)," said Bayron, who had two three-putts for bogey and muffed three birdie chances inside four feet.

He was the best-placed Filipino in the individual race with a 141 total, five shots behind India's Chiragh Kumar, who fired a 67 for 136.

It was a miserable day for the eight-member squad, whose stint here is sponsored by ICTSI and sanctioned by the NGAP, as no one managed to match par on the par-71 tree-lined course.

Michael Bibat, the 2004 individual titlist who teamed up with now-pro Juvic Pagunsan to win last year's team crown, settled for a 72 and 143.

Anthony Fernando had a 74 to tie Dumandan at 145, Gene Bondoc also scored 74 for 150, Eugene Bunyi shot a second straight 77 for 154 while Dante Bicera made a 77 for 157.

Football Carambola up

THE FIRST NATIONAL MEN'S Open Football Carambola Tournament will be held Oct. 15-21 with the best teams in the south expected to see action.

Event organizer and host Futbol Sociedad de Leyte (FSL) announced Monday night that football clubs from Davao and Negros loom as early favorites along with hometown favorite Laos Football Club.

The men's open *carambola* coincides with the 61st commemoration of the Leyte Landing, where tourists from Japan, the US, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom come in droves. There will also be a ladies event and age-group competitions.

Tournament organizing committee chair Pops Macayan hopes that the FSL can maximize participation from teams and incite corporate support eagerness in its own ambitious search for future World Cuppers.

"We really have to take a lot of sacrifices here," said Macayan. "But if we won't take it who will? Football enthusiasts like me do dream of seeing our very first football team slug it out with the best of the best in Asia and into the World Cup. This event is FSL's first feeble step to that goal."

Event adviser is former varsity player Franco Gonzales.

Big field seen in Adidas King of the Road

THE ADIDAS KING OF THE ROAD, THE country's premiere annual 10-kilometer foot race, is expected to draw more than 2,000 participants when it returns on Sept. 17 in front of the IMAX theater at SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

In the absence of 2004 winners Eduardo Buenavista and Mercedita Manipol, Julius Sermona and Christabel Martes topped the race last year. This time, they are expected to clash for top honors. Buenavista and Martes are the country's top bets in the 42K marathon events while Sermona and Manipol are RP's premiere 10K runners.

At stake for the winners are cash prizes, medals and trophies, as well as gift packages from Globe, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers Chocolate Bar, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, Blue Angel alcohol and Adidas eyewear.

This year's King and Queen of the Road will each receive P20,000 worth of Adidas apparel as well as P10,000 in cash. The top three finishers in the team category will also bring home P20,000, P15,000 and P10,000 worth of Adidas gears, respectively, while the age group winners will each pocket P1,000 worth of gift certificate.

Registration starts Friday at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza bldg., 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills. Registration fee is P250. All entries will receive an Adidas singlet upon registration while all finishers will receive a goodie bag with gift items from support sponsors. Last day of registration is on Sept. 13.

CHRISTABEL Martes and Julius Sermona (right) are expected to defend their respective crown when the Adidas King of the Road 10K foot race returns on Sept. 17 at SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Salvador fortifies Grandmaster title aspirations

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Roland Salvador beat Pierdario Pace in the fourth round on Tuesday to fortify his GM title bid in the 2006 International Chess Tournament in Bratto, Italy.

Salvador, currently based in Milan, Italy, now has 3.0 points and shares 13th spot with 12 others. He will face Italian IM Mario Lanzani in the fifth round using the white pieces.

The 24-year-old native of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, needed only one more GM result to complete his GM title and joined the elite GM club of Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr., Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor, Nelson Mariano II and the late Rosendo Balinas.

Top seed GM Vladimir Epishin of Russia was held to a draw by sixth seed GM Milan Drasko of Serbia and Montenegro to create a 12-way tie at 3.5 points. Among those in the group are No.2 GM Gyula Sax of Hungary and No. 3 GM Erald Dervishi of Albania.

Sax, a former world championships qualifier, split the point with ninth seed GM Miso Cebalo of Croatia while Dervishi settled for a truce with GM Attila Groszpeter of Hungary. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

NCFP president Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. (left) and Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon do the ceremonial moves of the 1st Cordillera Open Chess Tournament at the Baguio Country Club.

Cordillera Open: Maga stays on top

BAGUIO CITY—SIX SEED NM MIRABEAU Maga scored 1.5 points in two games to remain on top of the 2006 Cordillera Open Chess Tournament Wednesday at the Baguio Country Club here.

After a 15-move draw with IM Ronald Bancod in the fifth round Tuseday night, Maga beat two-time Olympian National Master Samuel Estimo after 50 moves of an Irregular Opening to score 5.5 points after six rounds and move closer toward the P40,000 champion's purse.

Bancod bested fellow IM and No. 3 seed Jayson Gonzales in 55 moves of a Modern Defense in the sixth round to grab solo second with 5.0 points.

Four players tallied 4.5 points and shared 3rd to 6th places. They are top seed GM Eugene Torre, No. 4 IM Barlo Nadera, No. 5 NM Rolando Nolte and No. 10 Ali Branzuela.

Torre nipped No. 13 Julius Sinangote after 45 moves of a French Defense while Nadera crushed No. 11 NM Alex Milagrosa after 43 moves of another French Defense.

Branzuela upset No. 12 FM Adrian Pacis in 65 moves of a King's Pawn Game.

The National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay organized the event along with former Benguet governor and NCFP director Raul "Rocky" Molintas in cooperation with Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon and NCFP chair QC Rep. Matias Defensor. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Palermo rules MCC chess

TOP SEED FERDINAND PALERMO BEAT BALDEN Corpuz in 48 moves of a Sicilian Variation to rule the August edition of the MCC Executive Active chess tournament held over the weekend at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City. Palermo, a businessman from Pasig City, finished with 4.5 points on four wins and one draw to claim the title in the event organized by the Metropolitan Chess Club. Lawyer Cris Aspiras of Aspiras & Aspiras Law Office took runner-up honors following a victory over Salvador Tardecillas of Aceveda Accounting Office. Aspiras posted 4.0 points. Tied in 3rd-5th places with 3.5 points apiece were engineer Apollo Zantua of Steel Corp.; Dr. Robert Haryanto of St. Luke Hospital and businessman Ruben Medina.

Bata, Django rout Malta in World Cup

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE UNDERscored their status as the top combination with a 9-0 shutout of Malta's Tony Drago and Alex Borg Tuesday at the start of the inaugural PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool at the Newport Centre, Newport, South Wales.

Representing Team Philippines, the Filipino aces needed only 50 minutes to reach the second round where they will face No. 16 Malaysia, which crushed Qatar, 9-3, in this event which attracted 32 national teams from 31 countries.

Ibrahim Bin Amir, a native of Mindanao who migrated to Malaysia, and Patrick Ooi Fook Yuen proved too tough for Qatari's Fahad Mohammadi and Bashar Hussain.

"It was a good start for Team Philippines. I hope Efren (Reyes) and Django (Bustamante) will keep their momentum in the next round," said benefactor and RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

"I hope for their success" added Puyat, who kept Reyes and Bustamante out of the recent national pool championship won by Alex Pagulayan to concentrate on the first staging of the $250,000 tournament that stakes $60,000 to the champion team.

Despite their impressive start, the 43-year-old Tarlac, Tarlac native Bustamante admitted that he and Reyes never practiced playing scotch doubles in Manila.

"It's hard to believe but we never practiced in the Philippines. But we know what's going on and understand each other on the table," he said.

The 40-year-old Drago from Valletta, Malta had only praises for the Filipinos.

"These guys are so good and we have just played two of the greatest players of all time. There were a couple of lucky shots but they are legends in the game and sometimes I wonder if they played for it or not," he said.

The winner between the Philippines and Malaysia will face the survivor of the Canada-Czech Republic duel in the quarterfinals.

The Canadians (Luc Salvas and Tyler Edey) posted a 9-5 win over Thailand (Tepwin Arunnath and Amnuaypom Chotipong). The Czech Republic (Roman Hybler and Michael Gavenciak) upset Poland (Radoslaw Babica and Mariusz Roter), 9-6. Also advancing were Taiwan (Wang Hung-hsiang and Yang Ching-shun) and England B (Daryl Peach and Steve Davis). *Marlon Bernardino*

BUSTAMANTE

REYES

Nat'l Pasa youth program starts

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SWIMming Association (Pasa) launches its nationwide developmental and competitive swimming program with simultaneous meets in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The 5-month-long event, open to all Pasa-registered swimmers, takes off Sept. 9-10 with the sectional meet in Metro Manila, Bacolod and General Santos with the second one scheduled Oct. 7-8 in Naga, Dumaguete and Zamboanga.

Swimmers who meet the qualifying times will advance to the Division Age Group championships Nov. 3-5 at venues in Nueva Ecija, Antique and Lanao del Norte, to be followed by the divisional championship in the junior and open categories Dec. 1-3 at De La Salle-Zobel in Alabang, Iloilo and Misamis Occ.

The National Age Group Championship will take place at the PCEAS Complex in Los Baños, Laguna, Feb. 9-11, to culminate in the National junior and Open championship at the same venue Feb. 16-18.

Pasa, headed by Mark Joseph, is also holding the Pilipinas Youth Swimming Cup developmental meet on Jan. 20-21.

Peñafrancia golf at Navy Friday

THE MANILA-BICOL GOLFERS ASSOCIATION (MBGA) WILL HOLD the fourth Peñafrancia golf tournament Friday at the Philippine Navy course. Tee-off is from 9 a.m. to noon with participants being assessed P1,800 to cover the green fee, caddie fee, dinner, raffle ticket and miscellaneous fees. The fund-raising tournament is a project of retired Lt. Gen. Salvador M. Mison, president of MBGA. Mayor Romulo Vergara, rector of the Peñafrancia Basilica Naga City, will celebrate Mass at 7:30 a.m. Call Oscar delos Santos at 0916-3289646, Gen. Manuel Carranza at 0918-8805493, Efran Formes at 0917-8195299, Genielle Romano at 0917-5348061 or Serge Yadao at 0919-6951031.

SPORTSWATCH

Cebu joins Int'l Children's Games

FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, CEBU IS SENDING A DELEGATION TO THE International Children's Games slated to start yesterday in Bangkok, Thailand. Cebu is the only Philippine city to send a delegation to the games, participated in by children 12 to 15 years old. The participants are Inoue Roi C. Rendon and Christy Kim P. Velez and Jefferson Z. Pimentel and Daine Xylenne L. Balili in dancesport; Gillia Krystle M. Ypil, Krizia Kim D. Young, Sally Mase M. Siso, Bernardine M. Siso and Jessica Clarise T. Lagman in table tennis; Patricia R. Solon, John Sebastian R. Solon, Josemari B. Lozano, Loren Dale B. Echavez and Kirstenyl L. Amante in swimming. Forentino Solon Jr. is one of the organizers of the delegation.

Wack Wack benefit golf tourney

THE 2ND MAYOR BOYET GONZALES CUP OF THE GREEN LADIES MOVEMENT in Mandaluyong City will tee-off today at 7 a.m. at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with birthday celebrator Mayor Neptali Gonzales leading the golf enthusiasts. Tournament sponsors are Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, SM Investments, San Miguel Corp., Bingo Bonanza, Globe Telecom, Pagcor and PCSO. Joining the tourney are Representatives Ace Barbers, Gilbert Teodoro, Joseph Santiago, Ben-ben Noel and Rodito Albano and Mandaluyong city assessor Gene Sison, city engineer Conrad Anciado and Comelec chair Ben Abalos. The Green Ladies Movement is headed by Mandaluyong First Lady Queenie Gonzales.

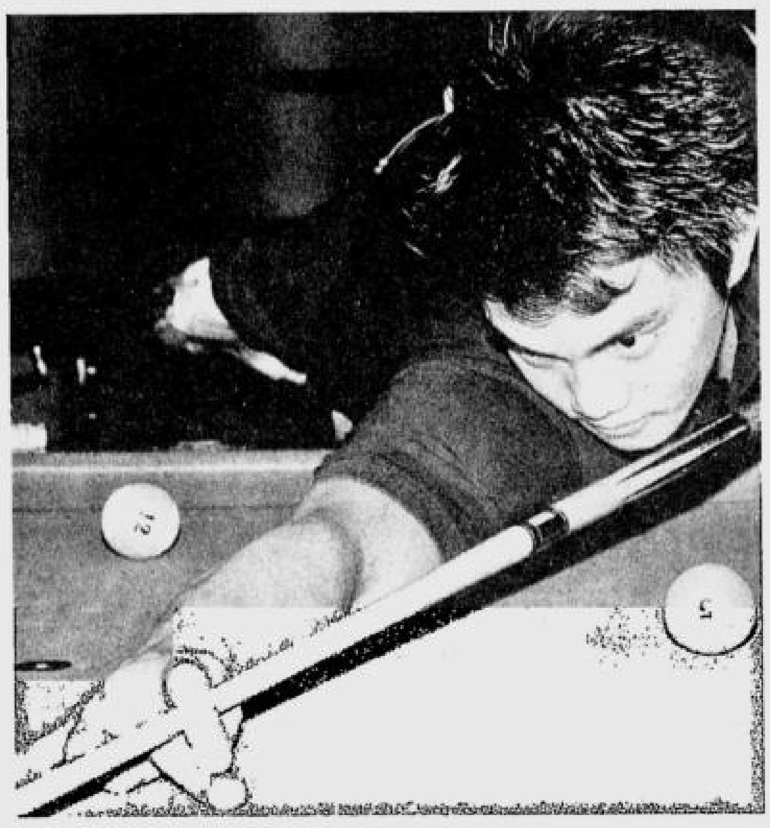
Stagfest today at Las Piñas Coliseum

ABOUT 100 BIG-TIME COCKERS AND BREEDERS WILL TEST THEIR NEW BATtlecrosses for the first time when the Las Piñas 6-stag derby blasts off at Las Piñas Coliseum at 3 p.m. today. Participants include Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Gerry Ramos, Jingco Brothers and Louie Cua of GCAP; Eric dela Rosa, Benjie Lim, Ramon Mancenares and Manny Pacquiao of PCCA; Gov. Ito Ynares, Rudy Albano, Jun Santiago and Representatives Gerry Espina, Butch Pichay and Jing Paras of NCA; Sonny Lagon of LGBA; William Co, Bobby Doromal, Efren Canlas and Lito Orillaza of PCAP and former Sen. Ramon Revilla and Mayor Ashley Arayata of Cavite. To be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, this derby will be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar for the benefit of Las Piñas City Clean and Green project. The 4-stag finals comes Saturday. Call 873-1040, 874-3910 and 0926-7450375.

Makati 7-stag derby Monday

MAKATI COLISEUM AND WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP. PRESENT the Richard L. Bates 7-stag derby Monday and Wednesday with the full support of B-Meg Derby Ace. First held in 1981, it is the longest running big-time stag derby in the country. This year, P700,000 awaits the winners for an entry fee of P16,500. Participants are reminded to submit entries Sunday from 2-9 p.m. and may call 896-3545 and 895-6475. Stags with wingbands of PCAP, LGBA, GF-BAN, Migba, Bakbakan, Balbina, NGBA and Pagba will be accepted subject to re-classification. Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines special 5-stag derby is up Sept. 4. Other PCAP stagfests: Sept. 11 and 16; Oct. 2, 9, 16, 21 and 28.

JIMMY Ong of No Fear hands a set of uniforms to Wushu Federation of the Philippines (WFP) president Julian Camacho during a recent courtesy call. The RP wushu junior squad is currently competing in the first World Junior Wushu Championships in Malaysia.


JEFF de Luna looks forward to US Tour stint.

De Luna rises to the occasion

ONE OF THESE DAYS, JEFF DE LUna will join the list of moniker-riddled names that crowd the list of billiards' all-time greats. And that's not shooting cue balls at the moon.

In fact, De Luna has made his presence felt in the 2006 BSCP National Pool Championship reaching the semifinals of the prestigious tournament only to lose to eventual titlist Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

The list of big names—and their monikers—that De Luna bundled out of the tournament reads like a who's who list of the sport not only in the country, but also in the world: Jose "Amang" Parica, Warren "Warrior" Kiamco, Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego, Antonio "Ga-Ga" Gabica and Dennis "Surigao" Orcollo.

"Local tournaments like these will surely produce cream of crops like De Luna," said local billiards patron Ceferino "Perry" Mariano. "I really acknowledge the BSCP's effort in putting one prestigious tournament. Many of our young potentials have shown their wares. I pull my hat for them especially Jeff the future or our billiards."

The good-looking 22-year-old De Luna, who hails from Tayabas, Quezon, earned the tag giant-killer deservedly. But he goes around with a more familiar label: Jeff Bata, coined by late-night pool inhabitants who, upon seeing him in the early stages of his career, saw a similarity in his style of play with that of legend Efren "Bata" Reyes.

De Luna's stance against Pagulayan and the eagerness with which he approached that match showed that he is ready for the big time.

"This is the fruit of our one- year training program," said Mariano, who added that De Luna will compete in the US Tour later this year. "

De Luna is being backed by Bugsy's promotion of businesswoman Verna Mariano. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Horse owners want lifetime ban on Zarate

By Musong R. Castillo

A GROUP OF RACEHORSE OWNers, who fear the industry may lose its credibility in the future, yesterday vowed to seek a review of the seemingly light penalty that erring rider Jeffryl Zarate drew from the Philippine Racing Commission.

Speaking on condition of anonymity at the moment, the group said that they would appeal for a harsher ban on Zarate and take the case all the way to the Senate if need be.

"That jockey (Zarate) has had a lot of infractions," according to one member, who sought out the INQUIRER late Tuesday night. "A year's ban is nothing compared to what he has been doing. Why give someone that light a ban after taking a painstakingly long time to catch him?"

Zarate was canned for a year Tuesday by the Philracom which found him guilty of dropping weights aboard heavy favorite Slatkis in the fifth leg of the Imported Stakes Series Sunday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona.

Slatkis' groom, Noel Caneso and two assistant handlers were also slapped the same ban, which prevents all of them from working on any horse in any official race.

Another horse owner said that the group met at around the time the ban on Zarate was handed down and they came up with a consensus for a lifetime ban on the rider, who was suspended for one year last year for deliberately losing atop a favorite in a regular race.

Philracom chair Florencio Fianza, meanwhile, admitted in an interview that his agency knows that the Zarate caper has been going on for quite sometime now.

Del Monte ladies lead Luzvimin tilt

CEBU—EVA MIÑOZA AND LOVElyn Guioguio played solid rounds to power Del Monte to a two-point lead in the centerpiece Diamond division at the start yesterday of the WGAP Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club here.

Miñoza, younger sister of professional star Frankie, fired the day's best score of 54 Molave points while Guioguio added 52 as Del Monte amassed 193 to emerge the first round leader in the event that attracted 23 teams from all over the country.

Marian Woo scored 48 and Nenita Guioguio rounded out scoring for the Del Monte ladies with her 39 in the six-to-play, four-to-count competition organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Philippine Airlines.

Host Cebu Country Club charged into contention with Samantha Borromeo (49), Stephanie Olea (48), Mary Kim Hong (47) and Hannah Wong (47) pooling 191.

Jungolfer Regine de Guzman carded 52 but didn't get enough support from her Manila Southwoods teammates and the defending champions lodged at fifth, 17 points behind Del Monte.

Experts helping Morales make weight

NO LESS THAN SEVEN EXPERTS from different countries are taking turns at transforming Mexican Erik Morales into the old wrecking machine for his fight against Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

Morales, who has been having difficulty making the super featherweight 130-lb limit, has been working out at the Velocity Sports Performance in the western part of Los Angeles until Sept. 15 before he returns to Mexico for his training proper.

"I can feel that I have improved in my fifth week under this group of professionals of the sport medicine," Morales stated in an interview with La Opinion yesterday.

"This work has served me because I am evolving, and that makes me feel confident that I will be in shape," said Morales. "I want to make these things because I desire to return to the position where I was before."

The experts hired by promoter Bob Arum to work on Morales are Jon Jon Park of South Africa, director for operations of the Velocity Sports Performance; Laurence Myers of South Africa, specialist doctor in ligaments, sinews and muscle injuries; Chuck DeBus of the United States, specialist of the cardiovascular work and sprints; Jerry Brainum of the US, specialist in sport nutrition and supplements; Jorgen "Yergi" Tersson of Sweden, specialist of physical exercises; Brent Meier of New Zealand, specialist of exercises, muscle stretching, and Mak Takano of Japan, an expert in boxing and martial arts.

After his physical conditioning at the center, Morales will leave for Tijuana, Mexico. He will stay there a few days before leaving for the Ceremonial Center Otomí where he will hold his training for his fight against Pacquiao.

Pacquiao has already started light preparation in General Santos City and will train for a few days at Wakee Salud's gym in Cebu City before flying to Los Angeles early next month to continue training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

RP wushu team enters World Junior tilt

THE PHILIPPINE WUSHU JUNIOR squad, led by Fransesca Ysabel Bernasconi and Henson John Tiu, left for Malaysia last week to compete against the cream of the crop in the first World Junior Wushu Championships.

Lester Pimentel, chair of the development committee of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines, said the country's bets are facing an uphill battle considering that China and other powerhouses in the sport are also taking part.

"It's going to be a tough tournament for our players but we expect that some of them will do good," said Pimentel.

Other members of the team supported by Philippine Sports Commission and No Fear are Mary Evangeline Agbay, Steven Luis Moral Ngo, Mary Stephanie Agbay, Daniel Parantac, Mariane Mariano, Edgar Adiwang, Geje Eustaquio and Ruel Sornito Catalan.

They will be accompanied by the federation's secretary general Edwin Pimentel, head of delegation Jimmy Ong and coaches Tansuitong Candelaria, Liu Xin Hong and Ding Yan.

Bernardo Ong and Mark Sanquiaop have been invited as judges of the tournament which started Monday and ends Sunday.

The country is widely considered as one of the strongest teams in Asia, snaring 11 gold medals in last year's SEA Games.

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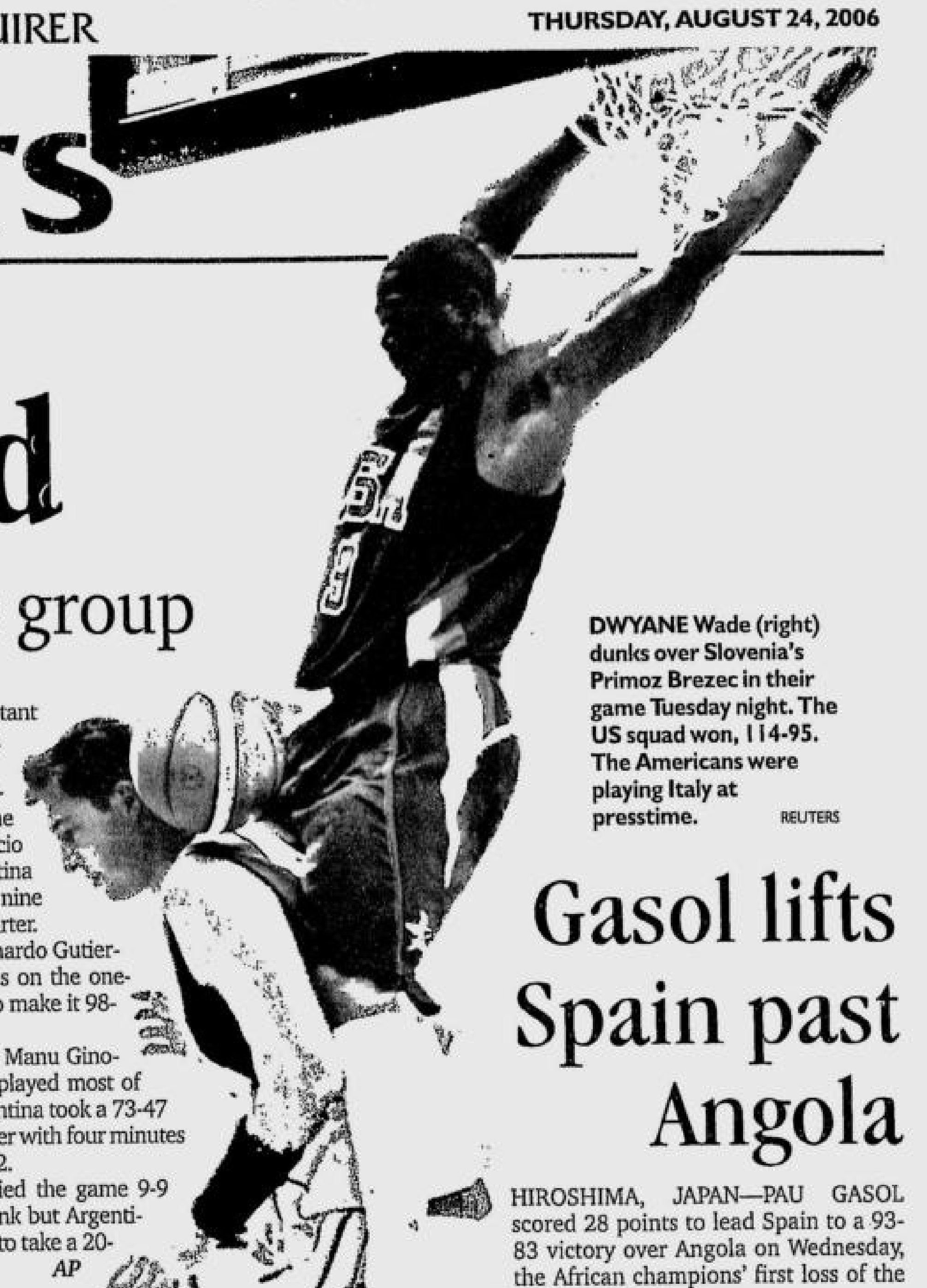
SPORTS



DWYANE Wade (right) dunks over Slovenia's Primoz Brezec in their game Tuesday night. The US squad won, 114-95. The Americans were playing Italy at presstime. REUTERS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

China crisis stalled

Asian giants bag first win; Argentina tops group

SAPPORO, JAPAN—YAO MING SCORED 26 points, right at his tournament-best average, and China beat winless Senegal, 100-83, on Wednesday for its first victory at the basketball World Championships.

Former NBA player Wang Zhizhi added 19 points and Wang Shipeng had 17, including three big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, for China (1-3). The Chinese, who close Group D play against Slovenia, kept alive their hopes of reaching the round of 16 but still needed help.

Jules Aw scored 19 points for Senegal (0-4), which is all but certainly headed for a winless stay in Japan. Senegal closes its tournament against the United States on Thursday night.

Houston Rockets center Yao, who came in averaging 26.7 points, had 10 in the first 5:03. But he managed only two more the rest of the first half, and Senegal led 49-45 at the break.

Senegal pushed the lead to 55-47 early in the third quarter before Yao scored eight straight points to tie the game. His two free throws with 4 seconds left gave China a 71-68 advantage heading to the fourth.

The game was tied at 73 before Wang Shipeng hit a 3-pointer and Wang Zhizhi followed with a bucket. Senegal was still within four midway through the period, but Wang Shipeng nailed consecutive 3-pointers as China pushed its lead to 90-80 with under 3 minutes to go and cruised from there.

In Sendai, Japan, Chicago Bulls forward Andres Nocioni scored 23 points Wednesday as Argentina beat Nigeria, 98-64, to secure first place in Group A at the World Championship.

Nocioni, who hurt his left ankle in the third quarter of Monday's game against Venezuela, didn't miss a shot Wednesday. He was perfect from the field and was 5-for-5 from the three-point line.

"I don't remember ever having a game where I didn't miss a shot," said Nocioni. "We played with a lot confidence in our shooting today."

Argentina, runner-up at the 2002 worlds in Indianapolis, improved to 4-0. Nigeria dropped to 1-3.

"This game was an important game for us," said Argentina coach Sergio Hernandez.

Carlos Delfino of the Detroit Pistons got behind the zone to slam dunk a Fabricio Oberto pass and Argentina opened up a 77-49 lead with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

With 30 seconds left, Leonardo Gutierrez put the finishing touches on the one-sided win with a 3-pointer to make it 98-64.

San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, who scored 20 points, played most of the third quarter when Argentina took a 73-47 lead. Juan Sanchez's 3-pointer with four minutes left in the third made it 62-42.

Nigeria's Julius Nwosu tied the game 9-9 with a two-handed slam dunk but Argentina went on an 11-point run to take a 20-9 lead. *AP*

CHINA and Yao Ming are on the way up. AP

Coach K: Yao and Co. on the rise

SAPPORO, JAPAN—TWO US VICTORIES by a combined 77 points are not going to change coach Mike Krzyzewski's opinion. China will have a good basketball team—soon.

"I think China's an emerging power in basketball," the US coach said. "I think they'll be a force in 2008."

The Chinese will host the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and US Olympic Committee officials already have predicted a strong performance from the home country in a number of sports.

But it would come as a surprise on the basketball court, where the Chinese long have been overmatched by powerful teams from the Americas and Europe. China never has finished better than eighth in the Olympics or the World Championships.

The Chinese hoped to do better in Japan. In a China Daily story on the eve of the tourney, star center Yao Ming promised the team would advance to second round, but China was 0-3 after a 90-87 overtime loss Tuesday to Puerto Rico.

-Yao helped China to its first win Wednesday, leading his team to a 100-83 win over Senegal and leaving it with a chance of advancing to the second round.

China opened the tournament by falling to 2004 Olympic silver medalist Italy before a 121-90 loss to the United States in its second game.

That was the Americans' second easy victory over the Chinese this month after winning, 119-73, in an exhibition in Guangzhou, China. But Krzyzewski saw enough to convince him China is a team on the rise.

"There's a passion in that country for basketball," Krzyzewski said. "You can just see it in people's eyes. I think people enjoy basketball in the other places we've been. In China, it was like they were craving it. You get that type of atmosphere with that populace and that athletic ability, and something really good is happening."

But not quite yet. Against Puerto Rico, China couldn't hold a late lead after Yao fouled out.

"Europe and South America have some more players coming out," Yao said after the loss to the Americans. "You can see in the last 10 years, teams like Argentina and some of the teams in Europe so many, I can't say. So, we need to pick it up. Not just China, but Asia. We have to pick it up."

In Yao, China has one of the best players in the world at his position. And Krzyzewski said forward Li Jianlian, the MVP of the Chinese Basketball Association, could be an NBA lottery pick.

The key for China's development remains better perimeter play. The Chinese were outscored by 27 points behind the 3-point arc against Italy, and they committed 25 turnovers against the United States—after turning it over 34 times during the exhibition game.

Playing against better competition would help. It has made a huge difference for Yao, in the way he plays and acts.

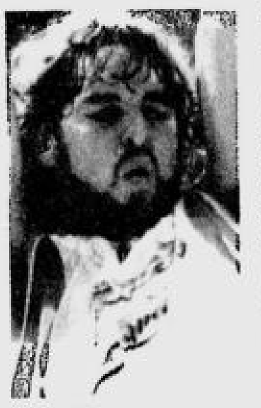
Krzyzewski said he never had seen Yao as fired up as in Sunday's game. The Houston Rockets All-Star twice screamed at officials after calls and frequently rose from the bench to yell encouragement to teammates after fouling out.

He was just as emotional Tuesday, when he fouled out with 29 points in 32 minutes and blasted the refs. *AP*

Gasol lifts Spain past Angola

HIROSHIMA, JAPAN—PAU GASOL scored 28 points to lead Spain to a 93-83 victory over Angola on Wednesday, the African champions' first loss of the tournament.

The win, two days after Spain beat Germany by 21 points, guaranteed Spain (4-0) the top spot in the six-team group. Both teams had already advanced to the 16-team second round, but Angola (3-1) continued its impressive tournament run by staying with Spain until the final minutes.



GASOL AFP

With the 2.13-meter (7-foot) Gasol, who plays for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, scoring 13 points inside, Spain led 46-36 at halftime and most people were waiting for the blowout to begin.

But Angola scored the first five points of the second half, and Joaquim Gomes, who played at Valparaiso from 2000-04, shook off first-half foul trouble to keep his team in it.

The 6-8 Gomes was relentless on the boards and managed to avoid fouling out until the final minute despite having to cover Gasol most of the time.

Gomes scored the final five points of the third quarter, including a jumper at the buzzer, to get Angola within, 65-57.

Spain then started the final quarter with a 6-2 run to hold off its foes. *AP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
thursday, August 24, 2006

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ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	S.O.S		Shorts		Big News	Worst Case Scenario	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Contender (Season II)		Supernatural (Season I)		Hex (Season 2)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ [illegible] Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ [illegible] 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Kung Tapos Na Ang Kailanman				Saan Nagtatago Ang Pag-ibig				Bahay Ni Lola 2				Once Upon A Time				Beautiful Life	
Cinemax					Somebody Has To Shoot The Picture			The Big Chill (6:10PM)				Friday The 13th Part 4: The Final Chapter			The Snow Walker (9:25PM)			Devour (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case		Cold Case		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Building The Biggest		Raw Nature		Deadliest Catch		The Greatest Ever		Building The Ultimate	Connect	Mythbusters		Building The Biggest		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/ [illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Lizzie McGuire	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Winter X Games Classic		Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Sportscenter Asia	The Beautiful Century: 100 Yrs of FIFA	Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel			Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live Encore With Fr Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine II		Trust		Spooks		Wars In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO				New York Minute			Every Time We Say Goodbye (5:45PM)				Mean Girls			Deadwood 07: Bullock Returns To The Camp		Deadwood 08: Suffer The Little Children	Deadwood 09: No Other Sons Or Daughters		Addicted To Love (11:45PM)
Hero TV	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mamo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BDaman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heal		X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines MYX		Punk'D Rock MYX	Laguna Beach My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	Get Spotted OPM MYX	Pop MYX	TRL MYX Daily Top Ten		Punk'D MYX Presents	Laguna Beach	Rex in the City MYX Bandarito	Sessions Kyla My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science: The Deep		Top 5 - England Unveiled		WOW! Wild Indonesia: The Mystery Of Sulawesi		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures: Star Launch		Naked Science: Roman Technology	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible] Treasure/Wayside	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Kapag Wala Ng Bala				Tina, My Tina [illegible]				Dama				Tatlo Silang Tatay Ko				Wanted G.R.O
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		NBA Inside Stuff	2006 FIBA World Championship Games SCG vs Argentina				GWS 32-2006	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's: Canada		2006 FIBA World Championship Games USA vs. Senegal				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	World Table Tennis SF	
Sports Plus				Raceworld		World Poker Tour Hollywood Home				Nopi Tunervision	WCG-Bridgestone Preview	World's Greatest Auto Show Chicago		World Game		Auto Focus		Raceworld	
Star Movies				Big [illegible] (3:50 PM)			The Rocketeer (5:25PM)			Racing Stripes (7:15 PM)				Starsky & Hutch			Phantom Below (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova		The Office	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Rockstar Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Two & A Half Men	Joey	Stacked	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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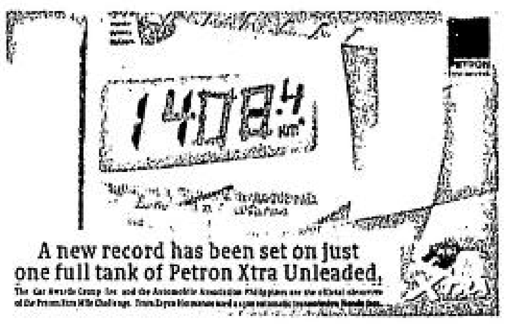

A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Ayala sets sights on Asian property projects

Targets Macau, Thailand for initial ventures

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ARCH ASIA PROPERTY FUND, AN INTERNATIONAL investment fund led by Philippine conglomerate Ayala Corp. and its property arm Ayala Land Inc., is plunking $200 million over a seven-year period into humming real-estate markets and distressed property sectors around Asia, officials said late Tuesday.

Of the $200-million target fund size, the Ayala group will invest up to $75 million in the property fund while the balance of $125 million will be raised from third party investors.

The fund is being targeted for launch next month.

Ayala Land president Jaime Ayala said the equity fund would initially invest in Macau and Thailand.

Arch Capital Management Co., manager of the property fund, has found a Macau partner and a group of Hong Kong developers for a large-scale residential community project similar to ALI's 12-hectare residential condominium community "Serendra" at the Bonifacio Global City.

Macau's property boom is being fueled by the phenomenal growth in Asia's gaming industry.

International broker and investment

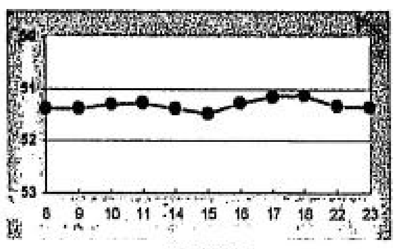
AYALA/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Breaktime:** The parting is over /B2
■ **PSE suspends** trading of 6 firms /B4
■ **Auto makers'** position on biofuels bill hit /B10

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



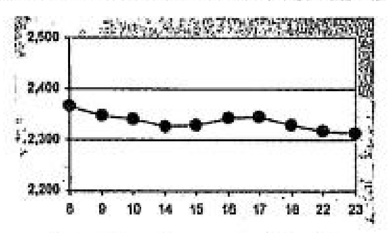
AUGUST

₱ 51.33 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2006

¥ 116.22 = $ 1
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 23, 2006

GOLD: $626.50-627.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 22, 2006

STOCK MARKET



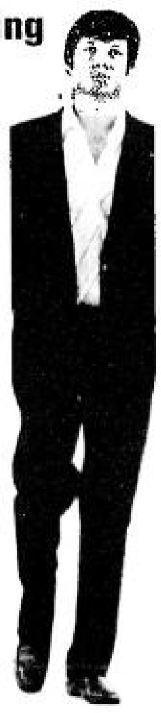
(See stock market report on Page B4)

SWISS BANK SURVEY

Manila among cheapest cities to live in

Prices of women's and men's clothing

City	Women's in US$	Men's in US$	Index NY=100
1. Manila	**100**	**170**	**16.9**
2. Kuala Lumpur	170	250	26.3
3. Buenos Aires	190	350	33.8
4. Bratislava	240	310	34.4
5. Mumbai	210	370	36.3
6. Lima	230	370	37.5
7. Nairobi	250	350	37.5
8. Johannesburg	270	370	40.0
9. Kiev	300	340	40.0
10. Jakarta	260	390	40.6
11. Sofia	260	400	41.3
12. Delhi	260	440	43.8
13. Bucharest	260	470	45.6
14. Caracas	310	460	48.1
15. Bangkok	250	550	50.0
16. Mexico City	350	450	50.0
17. Shanghai	320	530	53.1
18. Riga	330	540	54.4
19. Bogota	420	480	56.3
20. Beijing	370	550	57.5



By Daxim L. Lucas

METRO MANILA IS ONE OF THE CHEAPEST cities to live in anywhere in the world, but firms operating here also pay some of the lowest wages worldwide.

Consequently, Manila residents also have one of the lowest levels of purchasing power among the major cities of the world, according to a study published recently by Swiss banking giant UBS.

Entitled "Prices and Earnings," the survey showed that Manila ranked No. 67 among 71 cities in terms of prices of consumer goods and services, excluding the cost of rent. The only major cities where goods and services are cheaper than the Philippine capital were New Delhi, Buenos Aires, Mumbai and Kuala Lumpur.

The study used consumer prices in New York as the basis of comparison for prices in major cities around the world. In this respect, the UBS study noted that average prices in Manila stood at only 46.7 percent of equivalent goods and services in New York.

By this measure, the most expensive cities were Oslo, London, Copenhagen, Zurich and Tokyo, respectively, with New York ranked at number seven.

More interestingly, Manila stood out in the rankings for being the city with the cheapest men's and women's clothes. In no other aspect was the disparity between cities more apparent.

"A complete set of men's clothes of medium quality is eight times more expensive than it is in Manila," said UBS. "The same outfit for a lady costs 11 times as much."

"Nowhere are gaps in global prices clearer than in clothing," it added.

The clothing price survey sought average prices for complete men's wardrobe (suit, blazer/jacket, shirt, jeans, socks and a pair of shoes) and complete women's outfit (suit, blazer/jacket, summer dress, pantyhose and a pair of shoes). The surveys were based on purchases of "good quality clothing" from department stores, and not specialized shops or fashion boutiques.

The results showed that average prices of clothes in Manila stood at only 16.9 percent of equivalent products sold in New York. Sur-

MANILA/ B4

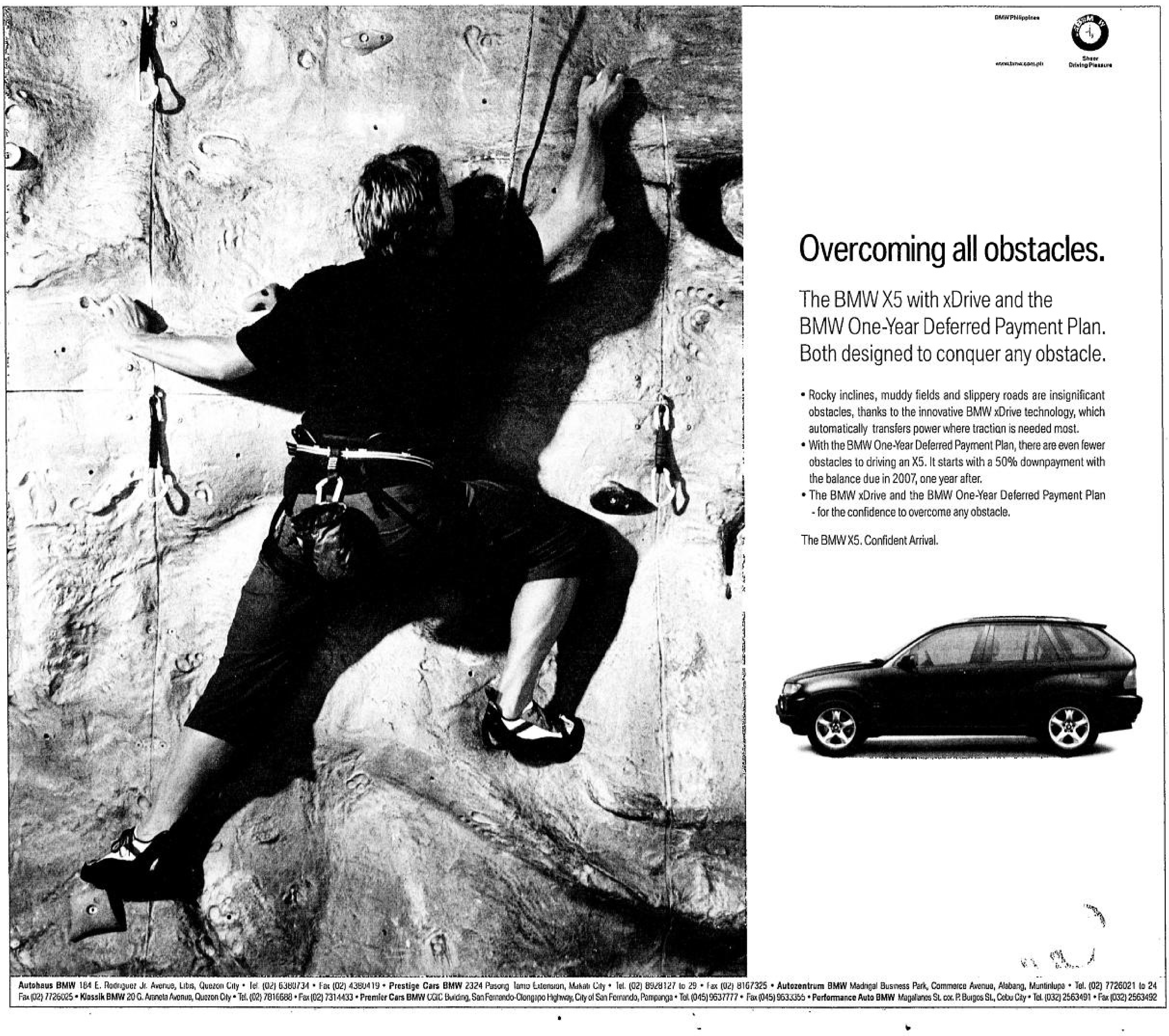
Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT YESTERDAY in a lackluster session with the market consolidating in the absence of major trading leads, dealers said.

They said losses in blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Globe Telecom weighed on the key index but gains in Banco de Oro and property outfit Megaworld limited the downside.

The composite index finished down 3.57 points at 2,314.57, just off the day's low of

SHARES/ B2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Gov't finalizing $500-M loan from World Bank

Co-financing from ADB, Japan agency

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS FINALIZING a $500-million development policy loan (DPL), a new budgetary support package from the World Bank which would be co-financed by the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters that the disbursement of the DPL, which the World Bank was keen on providing for the first time since 1999, would likely be within a two-year period.

"In the past, they did not want to lend to us because of our fiscal problems. Now, the multilateral lenders are the ones pushing for the loans," Beltran said.

DPL is a policy financing offered by the World Bank to countries whose macroeconomic management is deemed satisfactory by the multilateral lender. This loan thus acts like a seal of good housekeeping.

Beltran said the new loan would carry certain performance indicators in line with the deficit ceilings under the government's fiscal program.

Finance officials were scheduled to meet with representatives from the participating lenders yesterday afternoon to finalize the terms of the DPL. Once approved, it will be the single-biggest multilateral loan package extended to the Philippines in recent years.

Earlier, the government was hoping to raise only about $400 million from the DPL but the amount was augmented by co-financing offers from the ADB and JBIC, Beltran said.

In an earlier interview, World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg said the DPL would be tied to specific reforms, including fiscal reforms, quality of expenditures, civil service reform and corruption control.

He said the DPL would have quantitative and qualitative triggers, mostly related to the government's fiscal resolve.

One quantitative trigger is a significant adjustment in tax revenues and an increase in government revenue collection by 1.4 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) this year.

On the other hand, the qualitative content will include actual reforms passed, such as the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law, the administrative reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an improvement in the framework for public expenditures and the reconciliation of budget execution and budget formulation.

For the next three years, the World Bank has set aside $1.8 billion for its country assistance strategy for the Philippines and is confident that this budget would be maximized this time around.

The bank's board recently approved key loans worth a total of $410 million to help the Philippines intensify health and education sector reforms as well as perk up local investments.

The parting is over

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FRANKLY, I SET OUT TO WRITE ABOUT ANother one of those "truth" commissions that this cute administration of Gloriaetta loves to form as PR of last resort.

But I guess that nobody really cares about it. I mean, what I write about, not another convenient commission yet again, okay!

And so let's just talk about the local multibillionaires that the news media refer to as "taipans," which literally means "money coming out of their ears."

It seems that, among our taipans, forming their very own charitable foundation has become the trend. I wonder why.

Anywhere in the world, a foundation is only considered to be a decent tax shelter.

Anyway, did you hear about the new project of the foundation of taipan Lucio Tan (cigarettes, beer, liquor, banking, airline, real estate, etc.), the one called "Fuse," whose membership is made up of school principals, above all, plus university presidents and college deans (the late Bro. Andrew Gonzales, for one), former education secretaries (Jaime Laya, for instance), and the education committee heads of both chambers of Congress, namely, Sen. Edgardo Angara and Rep. Salvador Escudero III, who by the way is not rating high in the latest survey for "senatoriables?"

"Fuse" stands for "Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education" and apparently to live up to its name, Fuse gave master's degree scholarships to science and math teachers, some 76 of them in the first batch.

Look at that—the scholarships are not for your usual poor but deserving students, but for TEACHERS. No wonder, those initial scholarships can cost Fuse (i.e. Lucio Tan) P50 million—easily.

Selected from different regional science high schools, the teachers are taking up their Master's at only two universities chosen by Fuse itself, namely, La Salle and Ateneo, which are not exactly the cheapest schools around. Go ahead and ask the wobbling preneed education plan industry!

Clearly, as a strategy to upgrade our standard of education, Fuse aims to train the teachers. Last summer alone, it held intensive sessions for some 2,400 teachers.

And, no, Fuse does not have a training program for our noble teachers on the electoral process, even if the Comelec always taps them to serve in every election, apparently to prevent electoral fraud in any form.

Now, if we can only have enough classrooms... Oops, I forgot that this cute administration did not have to form another "truth" commission on the serious lack of classrooms, since it already solved the shortage on paper through statistical magic.

* * *

IF YOU bother to ask the so-called stock analysts, you probably know that some analysts who may or may not have ties with listed property companies, now see a genuine recovery in the real estate sector.

That's probably the reason why one of the biggest and more aggressive real estate companies here is parting ways with its foreign investors.

Word goes around in the property business that both sides, the local and the imported, are already computing what amount of the huge business goes to whom.

It means that the foreign investments may fly out of the country soon. Unless of course the investors find good prospects in some other local property companies.

It seems that nothing can stop the big, aggressive real estate company, and it can afford to give up those tens of billions of pesos in foreign capital.

In the troubled days of real estate, however, after the party of the early 1990s boom was over due to the Asian financial meltdown in 1997, the company asked and received help from the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Thus, the company was able to retire its debilitating debts with government financial institutions through dacion en pago, thus clearing its books of those problematic accounts, paving the way for foreign investors to come in, allowing the company to finish its various ongoing projects then.

And so times have changed. Today, with successful venture one after another, the company is on a long winning streak. Only, its issue is still not doing well in the stock market.

* * *

MINUS the unflattering words about the SSS and its president, Corazon dela Paz, and with a little correction, here is a letter from a widow named Edelina Diamla of Tayabas, Quezon:

"I became a widow in April 3, 2002, when my Muslim husband, Mamaokay Diamla, died and was buried that day in Marawi City, as is the custom of Islamic religion.

"When I filed my claim for death benefits in Lucena, Quezon, all that I received from SSS was an undated letter from the OIC ... asking me to wait until such time that their Iligan staff can conduct a verification of my husband's death in Marawi City. It said that since Marawi City is hostile to Christians, their Iligan staff is in fear of their lives. So what can I do but wait. Four years have gone by without any word from them. I am still waiting—for a miracle.

"A lawyer who has been helping me ... wrote a letter to Ms Dela Paz in August 2005. Both letters were never answered. Neither was the certification of the barangay chairman of the area where my husband was buried, given any weight.

"What I cannot understand is why a government agency such as SSS does not seek the services of our Armed Forces or the national police to escort SSS people while conducting their verification.

"...Why should we be denied the benefits we are entitled to under the law with such a flimsy excuse? Is it not their duty to help the beneficiaries of SSS members?"

It is the same question, my dear Mrs. Diamla, I have been asking all along to no avail.

Shares ...

From page B1

2,313.19. It hit an intraday high of 2,329.78 points.

The broader all-shares index rose 0.89 points to 1,435.86.

A total of 1.83 billion shares were traded worth P1.38 billion.

The market's breadth was positive with gainers narrowly beating losers 43 to 40, while 54 stocks were unchanged.

"The market lacks direction in the absence of strong leads," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"Investors are only making their moves based on company-specific developments and these involve mostly lower-liners and speculative issues."

Banco de Oro, the most actively traded stock, rose 50 centavos to P33.50.

Megaworld added six centavos to P1.72.

PLDT fell P15 to P1,950, in line with its weaker New York-listed American Depositary Receipts. Rival Globe Telecom dropped P20 to P995. *AFP*

AN URGENT PLEA TO Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Please help us resume normal operations at Poro Point Seaport and Bulk Terminal

Madame President, the Port, as well as the Philippine Government, is losing millions due to the halt in port operations since the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and its subsidiary Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) staged its forcible take over last August 5, 2006.

We appeal to you to please direct **General Narciso Abaya**, BCDA chairman Filadelfo Singson-Rojas and PPMC president Felix Singson Racadio to **renounce violence** against the workers of La Union, to obey the existing injunction and temporary restraining **orders** from the Court and to allow the **normal operations** at the port to resume for the benefit of La Union, San Fernando City, Northern Luzon and the entire country.

Madame President, it is clear:

The Violent Take Over at Poro Point is NOT about the environment

It is evident that the take over is not about environmental concerns. Prior events show that BCDA was urged to deliver its commitments under a pre-incorporation agreement in 1999, with notice served upon it to enforce the same.

It is clear that the take over has more to do with BCDA's inability to deliver its commitments and our recent notice to BCDA about our intention to collect on such contractual commitments.

BCDA has admitted its failure on many occasions. As a legitimate investor with substantial investment in the project, we believe it is only fair for the BCDA, through its President and CEO General Abaya, to comply with its contractual obligation despite the violent consequences we suffered.

There has been pressure on BCDA to take over Poro Point seaport

We are aware that the BCDA and PPMC have been continually looking for ways to quash its 1999 covenant with its joint venture partner, Bulk Handlers, Inc. (BHI). Unfortunately, it has so far failed to find legal ways.

We are also aware that BCDA is under severe pressure to junk the agreement, as disclosed by General Abaya's general counsel, Arnel Casanova.

There are peaceful means available to BCDA to resolve the conflict

General Abaya has been fully informed by his staff that he has recourse to peaceful means which he may use regarding his intentions at Poro Point. General Abaya knows that the legal and respected methods of renegotiation and arbitration are available to him.

Madame President, you are our last hope for a peaceful resolution.

PORO POINT INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point,
San Fernando City, La Union 2500

Samsung seeks bigger mobile phone market share

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS IS ready with its line up of 3.5-generation mobile phone products but its Philippine unit is taking its time in launching new products considering that the local market has yet to pick up.

Spencer Shim, president and chief executive of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. (Sepco), said on Wednesday it was making available this year only current or 2.5 generation cell phone models.

Yesterday, the company launched three products in its Ultra Edition lineup, including the X820, which company officials said was "the world's thinnest" at 6.9 millimeters.

The two others were the 9.9-mm D830 clamshell and the 12.9-mm D900, reputed to be "the world's slimmest" slide-up cell phone equipped with a 3-megapixel camera.

"There would be a waiting time before all factors are ready for 3G," Shim said. "We have our products ready but the market is not."

Still, Shim said Sepco was considering to launch 3.5G phones next year.

In a previous interview, the official said the company—which also makes consumer electronics and information technology products—was aiming for market leadership in the mobile phone segment.

He had said Sepco was eyeing a quarter of the local market to increase the firm's 20-percent market share although this would not be enough to dislodge Nokia, which has the lion's share of at least two-thirds.

Yesterday, Shim said: "There might be some way for Samsung to become No. 1 but the difference between No. 1 and No. 2 is a long way to go."

Shim said cell phones accounted for between 55 and 60 percent of Sepco's business.

Aside from cell phones, the company also sells television sets, DVD players camcorders, home audio devices, computers and related products, and home appliances like air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines.

The South Korean Samsung group has an optical disc drive production plant in Laguna, which started operation in 2001.

The plant produces half of the group's global supply of optical disc products such as compact disk writers, CD-ROM and digital versatile disk drives. The output is exported mostly to other subsidiaries all over the world.

Sepco was founded in 1998 after the mother company bought all shares in Samsung Mabuhay Corp., a union of Mabuhay Electronics and Samsung Electronics.

Gov't eyes perks for new telecom system

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COMMISSION ON INFORmation and Communications Technology (CICT) is considering the granting of incentives to telecom players to encourage the early adoption of IPv6, sometimes referred to as the next-generation network (NGN), chair Ramon Sales said at the sidelines of the CyberPress Forum on Telecom Convergence on Wednesday.

CICT, the policy-making agency on information and communications technology, is also arranging a forum that will address concerns about IPv6.

IPv6 or Internet Protocol version 6 is a network layer IP standard used by electronic devices to exchange data across a packet-switched "Internetwork." It follows IPv4 as the second version of the Internet Protocol to be formally adopted for general use.

IPv6 allows each cell phone and mobile electronic device to have its own IP address and reportedly has the capability to support a far bigger number of addresses.

As of December 2005, IPv6 accounts for a tiny percentage of the addresses in the still-IPv4-dominated Internet.

"The desire of CICT is to have all networks in the Philippines to be using NGN by 2010," Sales said.

The CICT chair stressed that the supply of IPv4 addresses in the world was dwindling, with only 250,000 left for the Asia-Pacific. Depending on how fast this new resource is depleted, the Philippines may have to step up its IPv6 adoption.

Another motivation to fast-track IPv6 adoption, Sales said, was its superior quality and security compared to IPv4. IPv6 can efficiently handle voice, video and data traffic.

Sales also said that CICT was putting together an IPv6 summit that will gather telecommunications and IT stakeholders in January 2007. Issues concerning the adoption of IPv6 will be discussed in that forum, such as price of conversion and measures to ensure a smooth transition.

Gov't sets rate for debt swap

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday its 10-year benchmark bonds that it will swap for various debt maturities would be issued at par with a coupon of 9.125 percent.

The Philippines, Asia's largest sovereign debt issuer after Japan, is offering the new, more liquid 10-year bonds to investors holding government securities maturing in September 2007 and April 2016 to create more liquidity in domestic debt.

"We are happy to announce the coupon, price and yield for these new bonds which we believe will appeal to investors at these pricing levels," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a statement.

"Given the current prevailing low interest rates, we are confident that bond holders will view these pricing levels as fair and will be encouraged to participate in the exchange," he added.

Last week, Cruz said results of the debt exchange offer, worth at least P20 billion ($391 million), will be announced on Aug. 31.

At the last auction for new 10-year treasury bonds in April, the rate was 7 percent, compared with 7.5 percent in March.

In February, the Philippines swapped P122 billion of new domestic bonds with maturities of three, five and seven years to increase liquidity, stretch the average maturity of its debt and attract more foreigners to the local debt market.

The government also wants to take advantage of lower rates for its debt due to improving sentiment towards emerging market assets and its own healthier finances. *Reuters*

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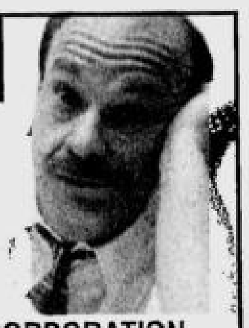

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Philippine Economic Zone Authority
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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 13,807,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Time-Of-Use Ready Watthour Demand Electronic Meters (Polyphase and Single Phase) for Cavite Economic Zone. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of Time-Of-Use Ready Watthour Demand Electronic Meters (Polyphase and Single Phase) for Cavite Economic Zone.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have a minimum of three (3) years technical capabilities and experience and should have undertaken a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 25 August to 08 September 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP10,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. *PEZA* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 15 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner, San Luis St., Pasay City.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 28 September 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on 28 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
9. PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-8587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI—Aug. 24 & 31, 2006)

PSE suspends trading of 6 firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE HAS warned six listed firms that trading of their shares would remain suspended until they submit their quarterly reports for June 30.

The PSE identified the erring firms as Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank, manufacturing firm Federal Chemicals Inc., holding firm Forum Pacific Inc., leisure firm Mondragon International Philippines Inc., bathroom fixtures maker Sanitary Wares Manufacturing Corp. and Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.

The PSE said in its memorandum for brokers that these firms have not yet submitted their quarterly reports or SEC Form 17-Q for June 30.

Based on information from the PSE's website, Banco Filipino has not been traded since Oct. 9, 2002; Forum Pacific since July 11, 2005; FedChem since Jan. 25, 2005; Mondragon since March 2, 2004; Saniwares since Nove, 23, 2004 and Universal Rightfield since May 15, 2003.

Companies cited for failure to give financial reports

In a separate development, the PSE has invited the public to comment on the proposed amendment to its disclosure rules, which were submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission for review and approval.

Under the proposed amendment, listed firms will be required to submit to the PSE a public ownership report (POR) every quarter as part of disclosure requirements.

The POR is needed to compute free float or public float "indices", a new market barometer put in place in April this year. Currently, listed companies only submit the POR to the PSE upon the latter's request.

The public has until September 11 to give their comments.

The PSE has proposed the new amendment just three months after it adopted the free float method, along with two other criteria, as additional bases in selecting the composition of the PSEi, the renamed index of the PSE.

In its previous method of computing the PSE Composite Index, the PSE used only three criteria—full market capitalization, liquidity and tradability.

In the PSE's new formula, a listed company must satisfy five criteria—free float level, free float market capitalization, tradability, liquidity and volume turnover ratio—to qualify for inclusion or retention in the list of PSEi companies.

As approved by the PSE board, the listed company must have a free float equivalent to 10 percent of outstanding shares before it can qualify for inclusion in the PSEi.

The free float represents shares that can be purchased and traded by investors.

The PSE also uses the free float shares, in lieu of outstanding shares, to determine the weights of companies in the PSEi and in the sector indices.

The adoption of free float forms part of wide-ranging reforms being undertaken by the PSE.

Cebu group wants water district in private hands

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE CEBU INVESTMENT PROMOTION Center is calling for the immediate privatization of the Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD).

CIPC managing director Joel Mari S. Yu said that since the MCWD was put up in 1974, it has not been able to fully serve the district's water demand.

Yu said many prospective foreign investors knew about the water supply shortage and have taken this up during discussions of investment plans.

"CIPC is trying to sell Cebu as an investment destination and investors always ask about water," he said.

Yu said MCWD has reported that its daily production is about 140,000 cubic meters and earns revenue from 110,000 cu.m.

However, the water district has estimated that the total demand within its franchise area was about 315,000 cu.m., he added.

MCWD supplies water to the cities of Cebu, Mandaue, Lapulapu and Talisay and the municipalities of Consolacion and Liloan.

The companies at Mactan Economic (MEZ) Zone I and II rely on outside sources and their own water supply, Yu said.

Yu said he would be talking to various business groups such as the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) to convince them of the need to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue an executive order directing MCWD's privatization.

He said the MCWD was among the water districts deemed attractive to the private sector because of their earning potential.

MCWD has signed an agreement with a private consortium led by Ayala Corp. to develop a new river-based bulk water project in the municipality of Carmen.

Upon its completion, the project is expected to supply an additional 50,000 cu.m. of water a day.

Local firm to test coal system

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL FIRM H&WB CORP. IS INVESTING $4.2 million in a pilot-scale facility at the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) in Illinois that will turn coal into liquid fuel.

The Fischer Tropsch facility will be partly funded by the US Department of Energy, said H&WB president Antonio Ver.

The Fischer-Tropsch process is a German-invented system that uses coal or natural gas to produce paraffin wax.

The wax can be refined into diesel, naphtha and liquid petroleum gases, such as butane and propane.

The facility is an integral part of the front-end engineering and design (FEED) aspect of the coal liquefaction plant that H&WB would put up in the country, he said.

Other major tasks under the FEED include the formulation of the basic engineering design for the plant, generation of an accurate project cost estimate, and the conduct of a market study to identify product pricing, demand, and potential market for non-transportation products.

The proposed coal liquefaction facility is expected to yield 50,000 barrels a day of clean fuels for transportation.

Apart from gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas, the facility can also generate 67.2 megawatts (MW) of power.

This will come from the steam to be recovered from the liquefaction plant.

This 67.2 MW of excess power can be channeled to the grid.

Prior to the construction of a commercial-sized plant, a pilot plant that will be fueled by 20 kilograms of coal a day will be established.

Japanese firm Sumitomo Corp. and local company MG Mining and Energy Corp. have agreed to infuse equity into the coal-to-fuels project.

Ver said that of the available 15-percent equity stake, Sumitomo agreed to take 15-20 percent, while MG Mining would take another 30 percent.

The remaining 50-55 percent of the 15 percent, he said, was still available for other prospective equity partners.

Manila Water gets ₱2-B loan

By Christine A. Gaylican

MANILA WATER CO. INC. HAS TAKEN OUT A P2-billion loan from local and foreign banks to partly finance its capital expenditure program for next year, the company said yesterday.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the MWCI said ING Bank has arranged a P2-billion syndicated loan for the company.

Financial institutions that would provide the credit include Sun Life of Canada, Insular Life Assurance, Security Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Chinabank, Robinsons Savings Bank and ING Trust.

The loan would mature in seven years and would form part of the financing needed to fund Manila Water's capital investment program within the east zone.

"Through this peso denominated loan, the company will be able to take advantage of the improving domestic borrowing rates, while it will also be able to better manage the adverse impact of foreign currency fluctuations," MWCI president Antonino T. Aquino said.

MWCI announced early this year that it had lined up projects worth P4.5 billion in 2006 and would spend approximately P4 to P5 billion every year for the next five years.

Aquino said a third of its capex budget would be used to extend the water network to the high growth areas of Taguig, Antipolo, Taytay, Cainta, San Mateo, Montalban, Angono, Binangonan, Baras and Jalajala.

Manila Water has also allocated significant amounts to improve its sewerage and sanitation services.

For the past nine years, MWCI has invested P19 billion in capital expenditure and concession fees to improve the water and wastewater services in the east zone.

MWCI's pipe replacement program has reduced non-revenue water to 30.2 percent as of June 2006, from a high of 63 percent when it started in 1997.

Ayala sets sights on Asian property projects

From page B1

bank CLSA Asia Pacific Markets said in a recent study that a makeover of Macau was underway from a "seedy gaming enclave" to a convention, exhibition and entertainment center with a core gaming business. Business opportunities abound in Macau in particular for property, hotels, retail, construction and events organization, CLSA said.

In Thailand, Arch Capital has also teamed up with the Narai Property Group, a partner of Ayala subsidiary Ayala International, for two residential projects.

Thailand has been investing heavily in infrastructure to boost tourism specially with Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport to open next month. Thailand's property market is considered at its infant stages, which can offer high growth potentials to investors.

"At the Ayala Corp. level, we believe that we have reached the stage where we have to build new businesses. Our existing stakes in BPI, Globe, Ayala Land are very strong and so are our emerging businesses like Manila Water, IMI Electronics, which have their own growth trajectory. So for future growth, we've got to look at new business opportunities," Rufino Luis Manotok, Ayala managing director, said when asked if the Ayala Group was more bullish in Asia than in the Philippines.

Aside from the three projects in Macau and Thailand, Arch Capital is in discussions with partners for four mixed-use projects. Although it is not clear whether all four projects will be in one country, some of these projects may be located in Shanghai or Beijing.

"What we are looking for are strong macroeconomic conditions. China, India and Thailand to a certain degree, share the same proposition for foreign investors, the government has a strong fiscal position, there are substantial exporters or in the case of China and India, have rapidly evolving increasing domestic demand and finally they have relatively healthy banking systems," Ayala International president Charles Cosgrove said.

Cosgrove said investors were expecting a 15- to 20-percent return from the property fund.

Aside from the Ayala group, Arch Capital also has Great Arch Co. of real estate expert Richard Yue as investor. Yue, who has more than 17 years of experience in investing some $3 billion in Asian real estate, will manage Arch Capital.

Manila among cheapest cities to live in

From page B1

prisingly, prices of clothes in Bangkok, the source of many garments sold in Manila's flea markets, stood at 50 percent of New York equivalents—more than three times the prices in Manila.

The UBS survey also found out that Manila, along with Kuala Lumpur, were the cheapest cities in the world to visit for short stays, either for business or pleasure trips.

"To get a picture of price differences for a short stay in a large city, we put together a basket of 10 goods and services comprising an overnight stay for two in a first-class hotel, two dinners with a bottle of the house red wine, one taxi ride, 100 kilometers in a rental car, two outings to the theater in public transport, and various small expenditures such as a paperback novel or a phone call," the study explained.

"The cheapest places are Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Buenos Aires and Nairobi," it said.

UBS found that prices for these services in Manila were only 35.9 percent of their New York equivalents. A couple visiting Manila for a short stay would need only $330 compared to $920 in New York.

By the same measure, London, Tokyo, Geneva and New York were the most expensive cities to visit for short trips.

The study revealed, however, a downside to the relatively cheap prices enjoyed by Manila and Philippine residents.

According to UBS, Manila-based workers were practically at the bottom of the global pile in terms of wage levels, making only 6.3 percent of their New York counterparts in gross salaries and 7.8 percent for net take-home pay.

Only workers in Delhi, India, made less money from the workers in 71 cities worldwide surveyed.

Little has changed since the survey was last published in 2003 with UBS saying that "the lowest average wages can still be found in Manila, Delhi, Mumbai, Jakarta and Bangkok."

Workers who earned the most could be found in Oslo, Copenhagen, Zurich, Geneva, New York and London.

With some of the lowest wages in the world, Manila-based workers also have the weakest purchasing power, the study said.

Manila ranked No. 70 in the purchasing power listing, equivalent to only 16.6 percent of those enjoyed by New York-based employees. Only workers in Jakarta could buy less with their wages, at 15.8 percent of their New York counterparts.

UBS revealed that the highest purchasing powers in the world were wielded by workers based in Zurich, Geneva, Dublin, Los Angeles and Luxembourg.

Published by UBS every three years, the Price & Earnings study presents a global overview of the prices of goods and services, wages, wage deductions and working hours, and the resulting purchasing power in 71 cities on all continents.

Information is based on a survey comprising more than 35,000 individual data points. Based on historical data, the survey's analytical section examines long-term trends in price convergence worldwide and differing values attached to earned income versus leisure time, among other topics.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 23, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	36,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33.5	33	33.5	7,767,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	833,300
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	150
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,110,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	80	80	79.5	79.5	4,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	38	37	38	763,900
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	78,500
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	2,100
Security Bank Corp.	48	48	48	48	150,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	8,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	130,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	462,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1630	1630	20
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	219	219	219	219	45,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2040	2030	2040	2,110
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.36	3,835,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	95,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	43.5	42.5	42.5	1,177,400
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.25	16	16.25	7,500
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25	1,556,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	9	32,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	4.05	3.95	4	2,387,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	178,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	47,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	281,100
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	102,000
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	870,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.75	3.85	3,710,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	63.5	64	130,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	72	72.5	204,700
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	1,007,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,340,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	210,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	50,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	71,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	1,904,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	60,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	19,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.49	75,380,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.085	3,100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	420	415	415	53,010
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	105,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.027	0.028	42,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	273,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.28	25,940,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	200,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	8,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	37,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	180,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	12,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	723,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	270,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	44,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	12,630,000
SM Investments Corp.	215	219	215	218	436,630
South China Resources Inc	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	220,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	2,940,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.25	13	13.25	1,060,600
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	524,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	25,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	1,320,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.18	2.24	2.18	2.2	275,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.47	5,220,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.05	5,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	3,395,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.115	0.12	830,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.13	0.15	0.125	0.15	650,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.72	104,346,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	2,500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	33,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43	2,870,000
SM Development Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	5,969,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	16.75	16.75	1,200
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.3	1.34	1.26	1.28	7,546,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1015	1015	995	995	47,480
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.8	1,652,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1965	1965	1950	1950	113,610
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
Diversified Fin. Network	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	15,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	47,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	8,200,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.055	34,500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	109,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	106,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15	15	15	15	220,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	300,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.6	4,654,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	39,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1300	1300	1300	1300	10
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	30,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.38	2.4	3,459,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	233,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5	5.2	5	5.2	2,842,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5	5.3	5	5.3	1,526,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	105,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8.2	8	8.2	2,246,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2	2	2	3,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	5,750,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	5,990,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	139,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	42,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	1,416,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.35	4.4	4.3	4.4	5,477,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	18,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	420,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.64	0.59	0.62	4,750,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	810,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	77,400,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,316,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	874,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	168,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	500
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	114,000

CURRENCIES

August 23, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.781311	1.000000	51.2290
Japan	Yen	0.006704	0.008581	0.4396
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475115	1.888000	96.7204
Hongkong	Dollar	0.100471	0.128593	6.5877
Switzerland	Franc	0.632743	0.809848	41.4877
Canada	Dollar	0.700225	0.896218	45.9124
Singapore	Dollar	0.496701	0.635728	32.5677
Australia	Dollar	0.595739	0.762486	39.0614
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.072608	2.652731	135.8968
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208327	0.266638	13.6596
Brunei	Dollar	0.495128	0.633714	32.4645
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020774	0.026589	1.3621
UAE	Dirham	0.212729	0.272272	13.9482
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.279900	65.5680
Argentina	Peso	0.253425	0.324359	16.6166
Brazil	Real	0.366882	0.469572	24.0557
Denmark	Kroner	0.134025	0.171538	8.7877
India	Rupee	0.016821	0.021529	1.1029
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212631	0.272146	13.9418
Mexico	New Peso	0.072089	0.092267	4.7267
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498158	0.637592	32.6632
Norway	Kroner	0.124321	0.159119	8.1515
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012964	0.016592	0.8500
South Africa	Rand	0.109704	0.140410	7.1931
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.001046	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.108751	0.139190	7.1306
Syria	Pound	0.015051	0.019264	0.9869
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023893	0.030581	1.5666
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000364	0.000466	0.0239

US to sign investment, trade deal with Asean on Friday

Agreement to cut trade barriers, protect intellectual property rights

KUALA LUMPUR—THE UNITED STATES will ink a trade and investment pact with Southeast Asia on Friday despite its economic sanctions on Myanmar, the bloc's chief said.

"Yes, yes, all 10 Asean members will sign it (with the United States)," Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretary general Ong Keng Yong said late Tuesday.

"The United States recognizes Asean as a group that includes Myanmar," he said, adding that the pact demonstrates the United States' commitment to strengthening economic relations with Southeast Asia.

The Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (Tifa) will be signed by US Trade Representative Susan Schwab and her Southeast Asian counterparts who are meeting here this week.

The United States has already signed Tifa pacts with key individual Asean economies, which are aimed at setting the stage for fully-fledged free-trade agreements.

The Asean-US Tifa is expected to lay the guidelines for a future free-trade pact between the bloc and the United States, its largest trading partner.

A draft copy of the agreement showed that the two sides would among other things strive to cut barriers to trade and investment, and protect intellectual property rights—a sensitive issue in most Asean countries.

"Recognizing that the expansion of trade and investment, including through the reduction of related barriers and the fostering of an open and predictable environment for international trade and investment, can promote economic growth and development," it said.

It called for the need to reinforce the multilateral trading system and promote transparency and good governance, including by combating and preventing unlawful activities in international trade and investment.

The US and Asean would also establish a joint council charged with considering ways to enhance trade and investment between them.

The deal will be signed despite stringent US sanctions against Myanmar, as punishment for its refusal to introduce democracy or release detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Earlier this month, US President George W. Bush renewed a one-year ban on all imports from Myanmar to signal his "serious concern" about the military regime which has been in power for four decades.

The United States halted new investments to Myanmar in 1997 and imposed bans on financial transactions and imports in 2003. Visa restrictions on officials from the military junta and affiliated groups have also been implemented.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*

Japan, Asean in talks over shape of FTA

KUALA LUMPUR—SOUTHEAST ASIAN NAtions and Japan are wrangling over the shape of a free-trade deal, with Asean resisting efforts to bundle together a series of individual agreements, a senior official said.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretary general Ong Keng Yong said the grouping wants Japan to offer a regionwide deal, rather than "stringing together" existing free trade agreements (FTAs).

Japan has signed bilateral FTAs with Asean members including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. Ong said Tokyo wanted to bundle those along with a possible deal with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

"Asean's stand is basically that when we do our Asean-Japan FTA, it should be a regional FTA, one piece of document with Japan," Ong told reporters late Tuesday on the sidelines of an Asean economic ministers' meeting here.

It should not be "the way originally conceived by the Japanese side, which is that stringing together all these five or six different FTAs into one piece of document," he said.

Asean and Japan in 2002 agreed to work toward a comprehensive economic partnership, which includes an FTA, and have pledged to try to finish negotiations on the entire deal by mid-2007. *AFP*

GOINGS ON

Listing anniversaries

LISTED CORPORATIONS now get formal recognition and awards from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) as they pass major milestones in their history as public companies.

PSE president Francis Lim said the bourse had launched its Listing Anniversary Celebration Project in an effort to provide officials of the listed companies, the exchange and the stock brokerage houses an opportunity to get together and renew their ties.

Under the anniversary project, the PSE treats listed company officials to simple yet meaningful breakfast socials and ceremonies at the trading floor. A plaque also awaits the celebrating company for its contribution to the development not only of the capital market but also of the economy in general.

All Airbus seat sale

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB) is celebrating its all Airbus fleet by offering an all Airbus seat sale for only P199 (one-way) for all Luzon and Visayas routes and P299 (one-way) for all Mindanao routes to further promote travel during the off-peak period. CEB has set aside more than 100,000 seats for this promo.

The seat sale runs from Aug. 22 to 29. The travel period is from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 for Roxas, Laoag, and Dipolog, while travel for all other destinations will start on Oct. 2 and end on Dec. 15, 2006.

The P199 and P299 one-way seat sale is for immediate payment upon booking. "The best way to grab the promo is via our website (cebupacificair.com)," the company said.

After the promo, the lowest regular 'Go' fare to any Luzon and Visayas destination starts at P568 (one-way) and P868 (one-way) to any Mindanao destination. The promo and regular 'Go' fares are exclusive of sûrcharges and government tax.

SBC CORP. HONORS TOP BANK PARTNERS
Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila (center) converses with SB Corp. chair and CEO Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo and president and COO Benel P. Lagua as they prepare to confer the awards to outstanding bank partners of SB Corp. For the 2006 Bank Excellence Awards, seven banks—led by Planters Development Bank—were declared winners for their exceptional and active participation in the wholesale lending program of the agency. During the event, SB Corp. also unveiled its new website and presented its new directions and product innovations.

LACK OF GOV'T SUPPORT

Palawan's livestock industry in bad shape

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—DESPITE being free from foot-and-mouth disease, Palawan's livestock industry remains in bad shape.

One reason is the lack of support from both local and national governments.

In an inquiry conducted by the provincial council recently, Board Member Gil Acosta noted that efforts to improve the livestock industry were not enough.

Palawan's livestock industry is behind compared to other foot-and-mouth disease-free areas, including General Santos and Davao, which have already become exporters of livestock, meat and meat products. Davao even has a meat processing center.

At present, the province has a livestock resource center in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City and a carabao breeding center in Barangay Kemdeng, San Vicente town.

Key players in the livestock industry in the province suffer from low meat prices, which resulted in severe losses, Board Member Edmund Balerite said.

Agriculture acting director for Region IV Rodolfo Guieb said his department would look for ways to improve the economic viability of the industry and source funding if needed.

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said the possibility of FMD entry in Palawan was likely because of Palawan's open coastlines.

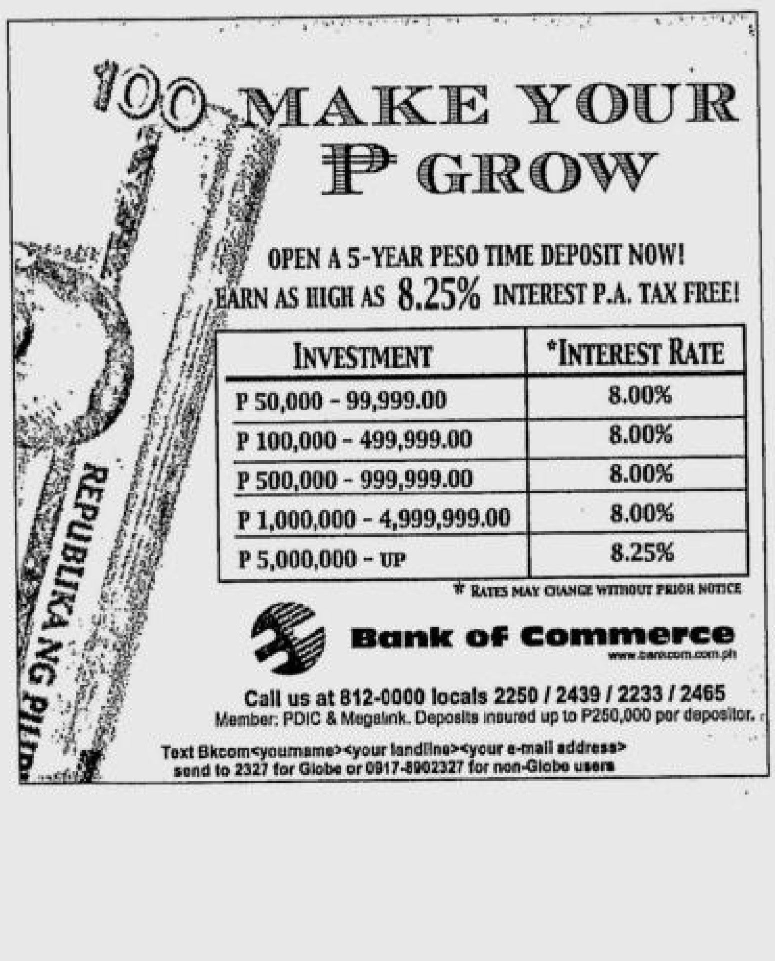
Dr. Victor Atienza of the BAI reported that illegal shipment of live animals, infected meat and meat products was a serious issue in the country.

"Only Coron and Puerto Princesa seaports are strictly monitored," he said.

There are numerous ports in the northern towns, especially in the Calamianes Islands.

Last June, Palawan authorities seized several goats that were about to be shipped into the province.

The provincial council was also set to investigate the alleged illegal shipment of about 114 carabaos from El Nido and Taytay towns this month. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau*



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COMMISSION ON AUDIT
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FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGION 3 AND REGION 4
Fiscal Year 2005
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
REGION 3		10,644,895	3,821,409	6,823,486	7,695,096			6,561,809			1,133,287			15
Aurora		485,492	122,791	362,701	327,232			290,563			36,669			11
Baler	4	48,410	10,015	29,395	38,888	92	5	35,977	85	4	2,910	80	7	7
Casiguran	3	98,313	11,151	87,161	48,867	68	3	43,901	67	3	4,966	57	3	10
Dilasag	4	27,830	4,369	23,461	34,950	99	6	30,198	98	7	4,752	59	4	14
Dinalungan	4	45,061	10,115	34,946	28,382	108	8	20,610	114	8	7,772	40	2	27
Dingalan	4	54,160	12,969	41,192	33,902	101	7	33,298	91	5	604	106	8	2
Dipaculao	3	69,210	13,473	55,737	41,232	86	4	33,073	93	6	8,159	36	1	20
Maria Aurora	3	59,865	14,970	44,895	52,023	61	1	47,742	56	1	4,281	63	5	8
San Luis	3	82,643	36,729	45,914	48,988	67	2	45,764	58	2	3,224	79	6	7
Bataan		1,747,369	868,347	879,022	814,400			740,885			73,516			9
Abucay	3	55,722	5,757	49,965	57,029	48	7	34,317	89	11	22,711	11	2	40
Bagac	4	59,885	41,801	18,084	39,646	90	11	39,395	78	10	252	109	10	1
Dinalupihan	1	135,201	94,673	40,528	82,832	27	3	98,584	11	3	(15,752)	118	11	(19)
Hermosa	2	101,055	41,662	59,392	59,735	43	5	56,179	38	6	3,556	76	6	6
Limay	1	372,874	7,106	365,768	155,073	7	1	114,779	8	2	40,294	7	1	26
Mariveles	1	697,756	518,049	179,707	153,319	8	2	148,998	3	1	4,321	62	5	3
Morong	4	73,207	47,609	25,599	41,765	84	10	40,948	74	9	818	100	8	2
Orani	1	122,308	61,623	60,688	69,106	36	4	60,515	34	4	8,591	35	3	12
Orion	3	23,583	8,600	14,983	51,252	63	8	46,481	57	7	4,770	58	4	9
Pilar	4	65,152	12,285	52,867	45,801	75	9	42,485	72	8	3,316	78	7	7
Samal	4	40,626	29,182	11,444	58,842	46	6	58,205	37	5	638	104	9	1
Bulacan		3,194,564	1,201,812	1,992,751	2,304,693			1,969,457			335,237			15
Angat	2	59,469	19,308	40,161	53,572	54	18	52,529	46	19	1,043	97	20	2
Balagtas	1	114,517	12,781	101,737	87,649	25	13	77,178	23	13	10,471	28	9	12
Baliwag	1	146,561	38,146	108,415	137,847	9	5	134,095	4	2	3,752	71	17	3
Bocaue	2	124,075	55,270	68,806	103,089	17	9	92,979	14	9	10,111	29	10	10
Bulacan	1	208,750	23,581	185,169	62,326	42	16	54,619	40	15	7,708	41	13	12
Bustos	3	66,052	34,778	31,274	47,575	70	21	44,171	65	21	3,404	77	18	7
Calumpit	1	131,825	59,830	71,995	106,042	14	7	110,942	9	6	(4,900)	117	22	(5)
D. R. Trinidad	2	86,602	12,623	73,080	58,999	45	17	53,994	42	16	5,006	56	16	8
Guiguinto	1	130,826	74,468	56,357	98,018	21	12	88,056	17	11	7,962	38	11	8
Hagonoy	1	111,306	59,813	51,494	101,124	18	10	94,254	13	8	6,870	45	14	7
Marilao	1	160,114	7,783	152,331	162,643	6	4	128,922	6	4	33,720	10	4	21
Meycauayan	1	442,829	283,962	158,867	281,567	1	1	238,476	1	1	43,091	5	3	15
Norzagaray	1	315,393	92,247	223,146	190,612	3	3	128,103	7	5	62,509	2	1	33
Obando	2	34,485	13,371	21,114	52,979	56	19	52,652	45	18	328	107	21	1
Pandi	3	86,602	25,973	60,628	51,035	64	20	43,214	69	22	7,821	39	12	15
Paombong	3	43,317	28,192	15,125	45,857	74	22	44,747	62	20	1,109	96	19	2
Plaridel	1	93,761	23,527	70,235	100,205	19	11	80,712	22	12	19,493	13	6	19
Pulilan	1	263,194	172,508	90,686	104,318	15	8	89,130	16	10	15,188	17	7	15
San Ildefonso	1	49,565	31,187	18,378	76,079	32	14	70,431	27	14	5,648	52	15	7
San Miguel	1	116,387	70,315	46,072	114,409	10	6	103,716	10	7	10,693	27	8	9
San Rafael	2	77,432	20,354	57,078	74,953	34	15	52,940	43	17	22,013	12	5	29
Sta. Maria	1	331,501	41,798	289,704	195,795	2	2	133,597	5	3	62,198	3	2	32
Nueva Ecija		2,008,316	679,848	1,328,467	1,404,598			1,100,104			304,494			22
Aliaga	3	34,622	10,765	23,857	43,073	81	16	28,442	103	22	14,632	18	3	34
Bongabon	3	106,360	55,198	51,161	49,730	65	13	44,486	64	11	5,244	54	12	11
Cabiao	2	87,092	32,201	54,891	52,503	58	11	48,606	52	6	3,897	68	15	7
Carranglan	2	52,636	7,244	45,392	55,628	49	5	48,095	54	8	7,533	43	9	14
Cuyapo	2	85,596	23,904	61,692	52,902	57	10	48,533	53	7	4,370	61	13	8
G. M. Natividad	4	109,527	36,494	73,034	42,526	82	17	29,744	100	21	12,782	20	4	30
Gabaldon	4	35,665	20,482	15,183	36,161	96	21	35,051	87	17	1,110	95	22	3
Gen. Tinio	2	86,290	34,036	52,254	53,816	53	8	47,967	55	9	5,849	50	11	11
Guimba	1	129,937	62,409	67,527	79,879	28	3	73,815	24	1	6,064	48	10	8
Jaen	3	59,502	22,415	37,087	47,284	71	14	44,647	63	10	2,638	83	18	6
Laur	3	50,526	13,027	37,499	38,413	93	19	25,784	108	25	12,628	23	6	33
Licab	5	23,397	16,003	7,393	27,482	111	25	26,769	107	24	713	102	25	3
Llanera	4	43,932	24,289	19,643	33,962	100	23	30,138	99	20	3,824	70	16	11
Lupao	4	40,562	10,590	29,971	35,829	98	22	36,326	84	16	(497)	115	27	(1)
Nampicuan	5	27,322	373	26,949	17,916	117	27	17,292	115	27	624	105	26	3
Pantabangan	4	187,221	20,769	166,452	175,299	4	1	33,243	92	19	142,056	1	1	81
Penaranda	4	22,354	7,341	15,013	20,526	107	24	28,360	105	23	1,167	94	21	4
Quezon	4	38,485	14,306	24,178	55,001	52	7	42,259	73	14	12,742	21	5	23
Rizal	3	42,381	15,811	26,570	45,611	77	15	43,293	68	12	2,319	87	20	5
San Antonio	2	77,911	46,735	31,176	55,018	51	6	54,276	41	3	742	101	24	1
San Isidro	4	301,351	53,396	247,955	51,582	62	12	42,507	71	13	9,076	32	8	18
San Leonardo	2	60,130	64,371	(4,241)	59,519	44	4	49,802	50	5	9,716	30	7	16
Santa Rosa	2	61,297	28,660	32,637	53,023	55	9	50,650	48	4	2,374	85	19	4
Sto. Domingo	3	46,200	8,692	37,508	41,731	85	18	40,739	75	15	992	98	23	2
Talavera	1	110,447	22,760	87,687	107,764	12	2	72,770	25	2	34,994	9	2	32
Talugtog	4	49,868	13,177	36,691	25,548	112	26	22,866	112	26	2,682	82	17	10
Zaragosa	4	37,704	14,397	23,307	37,870	94	20	33,647	90	18	4,223	64	14	11
Pampanga		873,637	341,076	532,561	1,326,213			1,190,410			135,803			10
Apalit	1	15,535	11,164	4,371	77,335	31	7	64,609	30	8	12,726	22	2	16
Arayat	1	16,033	7,844	8,189	72,844	35	8	66,547	29	7	6,297	47	7	9
Bacolor	4	14,534	11,254	3,280	45,760	76	12	45,727	59	12	33	112	19	0
Candaba	1	31,134	11,426	19,707	65,611	39	10	60,147	35	11	5,464	53	10	8
Floridablanca	1	32,698	20,857	11,840	77,614	30	6	71,637	26	5	5,977	49	8	8
Guagua	1	26,253	9,859	16,395	87,626	26	5	81,934	19	4	5,694	51	9	6
Lubao	1	92,627	35,237	57,390	95,627	23	4	91,682	15	3	3,945	67	13	4
Mabalacat	1	160,037	135,337	24,700	174,116	5	1	163,414	2	1	10,703	26	5	6
Macabebe	2	56,337	2,698	53,639	64,390	40	11	64,225	31	9	166	110	18	0
Magalang	2	115,842	12,337	103,505	68,003	37	9	67,185	28	6	818	99	16	1
Masantol	3	18,798	6,981	11,818	45,464	78	13	38,901	80	14	6,563	46	6	14
Mexico	1	42,881	6,933	35,948	109,897	11	2	97,345	12	2	12,551	24	3	11
Minalin	4	6,865	1,890	4,975	32,751	102	17	32,443	94	15	308	108	17	1
Porac	1	92,253	4,422	87,831	104,035	16	3	63,420	33	10	40,615	6	1	39
San Luis	4	46,438	12,106	34,333	37,323	95	15	24,987	110	20	12,336	25	4	33
San Simon	3	38,072	31,869	6,203	41,079	87	14	39,631	77	13	1,448	92	14	4
Sasmuan	4	9,701	4,004	5,698	28,153	110	20	26,880	106	18	1,273	93	15	5
Sta. Ana	4	21,980	2,743	19,237	36,083	97	16	32,091	95	16	3,992	65	12	11
Sta. Rita	4	16,464	2,858	13,606	30,850	104	19	25,648	109	19	5,202	55	11	17
Sto. Tomas	4	19,156	9,259	9,897	31,649	103	18	31,956	96	17	(307)	113	20	(1)
Tarlac		1,188,555	275,070	913,485	825,868			686,421			139,447			17
Anao	5	27,829	7,721	20,108	19,099	116	16	16,990	116	15	2,110	88	14	11
Bamban	3	65,060	16,714	48,345	52,138	59	7	52,009	47	5	129	111	16	0
Camiling	1	141,033	38,616	102,417	75,012	33	4	58,558	36	3	16,454	14	2	22
Capas	1	131,219	23,022	108,197	94,348	24	2	86,917	18	1	7,430	44	9	8
Concepcion	1	127,757	29,258	98,499	95,690	22	1	81,438	21	2	14,252	19	4	15
Gerona	2	78,134	20,382	57,752	63,266	41	5	54,640	39	4	8,625	34	6	14
La Paz	3	49,273	5,241	44,032	48,391	69	8	45,524	61	6	2,867	81	12	6
Mayantoc	3	49,802	2,927	46,875	40,347	89	12	31,008	97	12	9,340	31	5	23
Moncada	2	96,846	33,775	63,071	55,158	50	6	39,264	79	9	15,895	15	3	29
Paniqui	1	151,032	28,833	122,199	78,811	29	3	42,818	70	7	35,993	8	1	46
Pura	5	23,842	3,140	20,702	24,985	113	13	22,626	113	14	2,359	86	13	9
Ramos	5	41,126	11,737	29,389	1,632	118	17	2,422	118	17	(790)	116	17	(48)
San Clemente	5	57,900	6,117	51,784	19,889	115	15	16,189	117	16	3,700	72	11	19
San Jose	4	28,266	21,592	6,674	42,326	83	11	34,701	88	11	7,624	42	6	18
San Manuel	5	14,659	4,682	9,977	24,643	114	14	23,061	111	13	1,582	90	15	6
Sta. Ignacia	3	36,820	11,362	25,458	43,606	80	10	39,710	76	8	3,897	69	10	9
Victoria	3	67,957	9,951	58,007	46,527	73	9	38,547	81	10	7,979	37	7	17
Zambales		1,146,962	332,465	814,497	692,091			583,969			108,122			16
Botolan	1	153,879	31,594	122,284	107,371	13	1	49,618	51	5	57,753	4	1	54
Cabangan	4	29,757	9,584	20,173	30,815	105	11	28,429	104	13	2,388	84	9	8
Candelaria	3	63,670	17,033	46,637	39,300	91	10	35,630	86	10	3,670	73	6	9
Castillejos	4	60,304	13,663	46,641	44,740	79	8	44,092	66	7	648	103	12	1
Iba	3	35,357	15,479	19,878	49,218	66	6	45,636	60	6	3,582	75	8	7
Masinloc	2	181,421	62,594	118,827	57,488	47	4	52,900	44	3	4,587	60	4	8
Palauig	3	65,253	11,689	53,563	40,838	88	9	37,203	83	9	3,635	74	7	9
San Antonio	3	94,799	24,403	70,396	46,617	72	7	37,687	82	8	8,930	33	3	19
San Felipe	4	17,296	4,824	12,473	28,214	109	13	28,553	102	12	(340)	114	13	(1)
San Marcelino	3	111,819	39,174	72,645	52,107	60	5	50,070	49	4	2,037	89	10	4
San Narciso	4	40,074	6,633	33,441	30,117	106	12	28,622	101	11	1,495	91	11	5
Sta. Cruz	2	95,335	34,096	61,239	67,711	38	3	63,727	32	2	3,983	66	5	6
Subic	1	197,997	61,698	136,299	97,556	20	2	81,801	20	1	15,754	16	2	16
REGION 4		23,306,402	6,983,076	16,323,326	14,101,254			11,765,321			2,335,933			17
Batangas		3,898,737	1,059,858	2,838,879	1,941,460			1,537,231			404,229			21
Agoncillo	4	34,390	8,387	26,003	28,089	154	25	21,406	173	27	6,682	76	17	24
Alitagtag	5	55,849	1,950	53,899	27,082	159	26	21,691	170	26	5,391	90	21	20
Balayan	1	238,065	118,585	119,480	102,204	28	4	83,448	30	4	18,756	23	6	18
Balete	5	17,491	9,166	8,325	19,993	185	31	16,309	186	30	3,684	121	27	18
Bauan	1	492,869	96,298	396,571	250,875	12	1	210,812	11	1	40,062	13	2	16
Calaca	2	64,084	42,142	21,942	68,149	54	10	66,309	47	8	1,840	155	31	3
Calatagan	3	146,703	44,056	102,648	52,482	79	13	41,354	88	12	11,128	48	11	21
Cuenca	4	54,416	4,517	49,899	33,202	130	23	22,125	169	24	11,077	49	12	33
Ibaan	3	80,151	17,209	62,942	45,128	93	15	37,011	99	14	8,117	64	15	18
Laurel	4	58,764	12,930	45,833	37,709	117	22	26,489	145	21	11,279	45	10	30
Lemery	1	93,651	24,251	69,400	76,828	47	8	70,825	42	7	6,003	82	20	8
Lian	3	25,442	1,403	24,039	40,577	108	20	31,710	122	19	8,867	60	13	22
Lobo	3	54,598	6,800	47,798	39,009	113	21	31,472	124	20	7,537	70	16	19
Mabini	2	130,940	70,127	60,812	63,819	61	11	61,571	52	10	2,248	146	30	4
Malvar	4	108,161	9,430	98,731	46,328	92	14	25,991	147	22	20,338	21	5	44
Mataas na Kahoy	5	39,679	2,508	37,171	26,284	160	27	21,672	171	26	4,612	100	24	18
Nasugbu	1	469,804	189,582	280,222	141,804	18	3	112,195	20	2	29,608	16	3	21
Padre Garcia	3	60,622	6,414	54,208	45,027	94	16	39,701	90	13	5,326	92	22	12
Rosario	1	117,259	24,375	92,884	89,542	34	6	74,060	39	6	15,482	31	8	17
San Jose	2	101,360	9,847	91,512	55,954	71	12	33,671	117	18	22,282	19	4	40
San Juan	1	128,045	10,184	117,861	80,602	42	7	63,162	51	9	17,440	27	7	22
San Luis	4	33,610	6,826	26,784	29,255	147	24	25,001	162	23	4,254	111	25	15
San Nicolas	5	20,170	4,536	15,634	20,033	184	30	17,139	181	28	2,894	134	29	14
San Pascual	1	271,594	90,144	181,450	95,112	33	5	81,820	32	5	13,292	38	9	14
Sta. Teresita	5	26,708	5,469	21,240	20,046	183	29	16,912	182	29	3,134	128	28	16
Sto. Tomas	1	669,116	167,475	501,642	190,657	15	2	98,241	22	3	92,416	6	1	48
Taal	3	61,787	6,003	55,783	41,010	106	19	34,729	111	17	6,281	80	19	15
Talisay	4	63,100	23,927	39,173	42,855	99	17	36,434	100	16	6,421	78	18	15
Taysan	2	103,872	18,554	85,318	70,231	52	9	61,502	53	11	8,729	61	14	12
Tingloy	5	21,919	885	21,034	20,117	182	28	16,259	187	31	3,858	117	26	19
Tuy	4	54,520	25,876	28,644	41,398	104	18	36,207	102	16	5,191	93	23	13
Cavite		4,383,734	1,338,135	3,045,600	3,004,434			2,369,910			634,524			21
Alfonso	2	40,113	10,831	29,282	58,624	67	12	57,570	59	12	1,053	177	18	2
Amadeo	4	38,782	29,636	9,147	31,607	133	16	31,607	123	16	0	193	20	0
Bacoor	1	672,842	195,395	477,447	346,987	6	3	291,247	4	1	55,740	9	5	16
Carmona	1	354,275	49,341	304,934	278,898	9	6	203,430	13	8	75,468	7	4	27
Dasmariñas	1	699,022	184,847	514,175	438,995	3	1	285,173	5	2	153,822	2	1	35
Gen. E. Aguinaldo	5	12,772	7,535	5,237	22,491	173	20	21,495	172	20	995	179	19	4
Gen. M. Alvarez	1	118,467	47,084	71,383	95,970	30	9	78,647	34	9	17,323	29	9	18
Gen. Trias	1	409,827	102,750	307,077	387,463	5	2	282,950	6	3	104,513	5	3	27
Imus	1	503,949	173,133	330,816	308,290	8	5	274,477	7	4	33,813	15	6	11
Indang	3	59,095	15,519	43,576	56,485	69	13	50,987	70	13	5,499	86	12	10
Kawit	1	205,739	108,404	97,335	87,677	39	10	69,569	43	11	18,110	25	8	21
Magallanes	5	20,731	14,836	5,895	27,679	156	19	24,426	155	19	3,253	126	14	12
Maragondon	4	47,097	9,542	37,556	38,393	115	15	33,853	116	15	4,540	102	13	12
Mendez	4	45,230	9,472	35,758	29,261	146	18	28,118	138	18	1,143	173	17	4
Naic	1	115,666	37,430	78,236	82,281	41	11	73,260	41	10	9,021	59	11	11
Noveleta	3	58,209	27,977	30,232	42,143	103	14	40,221	89	14	1,922	153	15	5
Rosario	1	539,062	104,584	434,498	335,333	7	4	218,305	10	5	117,028	3	2	35
Silang	1	255,833	91,457	164,376	180,871	17	7	161,057	15	7	19,814	22	7	11
Tanza	1	107,031	45,296	61,735	123,601	23	8	113,301	19	8	10,300	53	10	8
Ternate	4	79,992	73,087	6,906	31,386	135	17	30,226	128	17	1,159	172	16	4
Laguna		4,038,911	1,296,475	2,742,436	2,167,086			1,786,570			380,516			18
Alaminos	3	48,836	19,196	29,642	47,048	88	9	35,848	105	12	11,201	46	6	24
Bay	3	48,888	11,914	36,975	53,341	76	7	51,411	69	6	1,930	152	19	4
Biñan	1	1,391,115	442,545	948,570	518,244	1	1	314,803	3	2	203,440	1	1	39
Cabuyao	1	1,147,524	393,552	753,972	421,365	4	2	362,630	1	1	58,736	8	2	14
Calauan	3	86,023	12,293	73,730	48,332	84	8	36,369	101	10	11,963	42	5	25
Cavinti	4	52,052	4,917	47,135	39,994	109	12	29,793	130	16	10,201	54	8	26
Famy	5	15,364	1,195	14,169	18,339	188	27	16,893	183	27	1,446	165	22	8
Kalayaan	4	24,502	4,607	19,895	30,567	141	16	28,257	137	19	2,310	142	15	8
Liliw	4	33,194	14,978	18,216	34,297	129	15	32,700	120	14	1,597	161	21	5
Los Baños	1	95,864	15,155	80,710	102,408	25	5	87,782	26	5	14,626	33	4	14
Luisiana	4	21,228	4,791	16,437	26,157	162	22	22,948	160	23	3,209	127	13	12
Lumban	4	28,845	8,619	20,226	35,403	125	14	34,924	108	13	479	189	24	1
Mabitac	5	21,269	1,097	20,172	22,849	172	25	22,744	162	24	105	192	26	0
Magdalena	5	16,711	26,964	(10,253)	25,610	163	23	23,440	157	22	2,169	150	17	8
Majayjay	4	13,023	3,973	9,050	28,367	152	21	26,323	146	20	2,044	151	18	7
Nagcarlan	3	94,327	37,534	56,793	56,028	70	6	49,547	72	7	6,481	77	9	12
Paete	4	14,497	3,007	11,490	30,358	142	19	28,474	135	17	1,884	154	20	6
Pagsanjan	4	63,438	30,633	32,806	44,208	96	11	39,694	91	9	4,514	104	10	10
Pakil	5	10,976	4,522	6,454	23,747	169	24	22,618	164	25	1,129	174	23	5
Pangil	4	38,769	3,904	34,866	29,758	145	20	25,261	149	21	4,496	106	11	15
Pila	4	50,213	18,731	31,482	39,241	112	13	35,918	104	11	3,323	123	12	8
Rizal	5	16,232	5,216	11,016	19,365	186	26	19,793	175	26	(428)	196	27	(2)
San Pedro	1	424,076	149,903	274,173	237,023	14	3	219,075	9	3	17,948	26	3	8
Siniloan	3	46,034	11,758	34,276	46,865	89	10	44,468	81	8	2,497	139	14	5
Sta. Cruz	1	172,997	41,147	131,851	126,338	22	4	115,789	18	4	10,549	52	7	8
Sta Maria	4	29,203	9,775	19,428	30,646	140	17	28,351	136	18	2,295	143	16	7
Victoria	4	33,709	14,546	19,161	31,089	138	16	30,717	126	15	372	190	25	1
Marinduque		434,195	55,943	378,252	258,175			230,836			27,338			11
Boac	2	117,655	16,997	100,658	59,509	65	2	47,970	75	2	11,539	44	1	19
Buenavista	4	26,048	12,763	13,285	24,576	167	6	23,315	158	6	1,261	166	5	5
Gasan	4	58,288	8,370	49,918	35,879	123	4	30,735	125	5	5,144	94	3	14
Mogpog	4	51,187	5,040	46,148	37,509	118	3	33,163	118	4	4,346	110	4	12
Sta. Cruz	1	154,098	9,662	144,436	66,189	57	1	58,507	57	1	7,681	69	2	12
Torrijos	4	26,918	3,112	23,806	34,514	128	5	37,147	97	3	(2,633)	202	6	(8)
Occidental Mindoro		890,116	240,180	649,936	635,133			565,245			69,888			11
Abra de Ilog	4	57,537	4,161	53,376	54,348	74	3	42,337	86	6	12,011	41	2	22
Calintaan	4	37,724	13,815	23,909	39,707	110	7	39,471	93	7	236	191	11	1
Looc	5	19,101	4,957	14,144	20,344	179	11	16,254	188	11	4,090	113	6	20
Lubang	4	32,814	8,239	24,576	28,563	150	10	22,269	167	10	6,294	79	3	22
Magsaysay	3	43,439	18,316	25,123	38,469	114	8	37,289	96	8	1,180	169	9	3
Mamburao	3	52,226	9,778	42,448	51,197	80	5	50,205	71	3	992	180	10	2
Paluan	3	71,616	12,716	58,900	46,486	91	6	43,394	83	5	3,092	130	7	7
Rizal	4	22,012	4,580	17,432	36,713	121	9	34,521	113	9	2,192	148	8	6
Sablayan	1	296,627	29,012	267,615	140,259	20	1	111,358	21	2	28,901	17	1	21
San Jose	1	198,014	129,536	68,477	126,506	21	2	121,049	17	1	5,457	88	4	4
Sta. Cruz	3	59,006	5,070	53,936	52,542	78	4	47,099	78	4	5,443	89	5	10
Oriental Mindoro		1,072,516	167,026	905,490	707,277			618,493			88,784			13
Baco	4	62,492	5,276	57,216	36,401	122	12	32,226	121	12	4,175	112	11	11
Bansud	3	73,795	14,520	59,276	44,248	95	7	34,780	109	10	9,467	57	4	21
Bongabong	1	126,450	10,254	116,196	74,564	49	3	60,130	55	3	14,434	34	1	19
Bulalacao	3	29,851	9,359	20,492	40,666	107	10	36,137	103	9	4,529	103	9	11
Gloria	3	78,227	9,960	68,268	42,689	100	9	37,041	98	8	5,649	84	5	13
Mansalay	3	84,313	27,451	56,862	50,739	81	5	46,131	79	4	4,607	101	8	9
Naujan	1	181,170	22,791	158,379	88,370	38	1	76,464	36	1	11,906	43	2	13
Pinamalayan	1	66,947	5,003	61,944	76,565	48	2	73,535	40	2	3,030	133	13	4
Pola	4	61,146	6,794	54,352	34,997	126	13	29,406	131	14	5,590	85	6	16
Puerto Galera	3	74,858	13,680	61,178	58,948	68	4	46,108	80	5	10,840	50	3	19
Roxas	3	56,108	6,451	49,657	43,072	98	8	39,376	94	7	3,696	120	12	9
San Teodoro	4	35,187	4,987	30,200	31,828	132	14	30,144	129	13	1,684	157	14	5
Socorro	3	68,577	19,514	49,063	39,590	111	11	34,772	110	11	4,817	97	7	12
Victoria	3	73,396	10,989	62,407	46,601	90	6	42,241	87	6	4,360	109	10	9
Palawan		1,319,466	390,721	928,745	1,213,038			1,079,522			133,516			11
Aborlan	2	68,639	16,425	52,213	55,833	72	11	48,645	73	11	7,188	72	8	13
Agutaya	5	22,766	954	21,813	16,527	194	22	15,476	192	22	1,051	178	19	6
Araceli	5	13,364	5,300	8,065	24,900	165	18	23,249	159	18	1,651	159	17	7
Balabac	3	37,559	7,892	29,667	47,280	87	12	42,835	84	12	4,445	107	11	9
Bataraza	2	90,375	36,170	54,205	66,163	58	9	56,312	61	10	9,851	55	4	15
Brooke's Point	1	115,724	26,115	89,609	95,160	32	2	87,324	27	2	7,836	67	7	8
Busuanga	-	45,175	6,693	38,482	36,944	120	16	33,110	119	16	3,835	118	12	10
Cagayancillo	5	4,519	769	3,749	14,045	201	23	14,131	196	23	(87)	194	22	(1)
Coron	1	116,769	35,906	80,863	65,421	59	10	58,332	58	9	7,089	73	9	11
Culion	4	33,430	10,324	23,106	37,985	116	14	35,322	107	14	2,663	137	16	7
Cuyo	4	21,480	7,434	14,046	27,484	158	17	27,628	140	17	(144)	195	23	(1)
Dumaran	4	60,146	15,759	44,388	36,988	119	15	33,857	115	15	3,131	129	14	8
El Nido	1	54,268	10,256	44,012	69,649	53	8	65,924	49	7	3,725	119	13	5
Española	4	60,621	28,782	31,838	42,606	101	13	39,540	92	13	3,066	132	15	7
Kalayaan	5	21,969	3,756	18,213	20,429	178	20	19,243	177	20	1,186	167	18	6
Linapacan	5	22,226	4,514	17,713	23,251	171	19	22,391	166	19	860	185	21	4
Magsaysay	5	16,143	2,920	13,223	17,494	192	21	16,596	184	21	897	183	20	5
Narra	1	72,056	19,118	52,938	85,522	40	5	76,395	37	4	9,127	58	6	11
Quezon	1	89,796	18,357	71,439	73,353	51	7	66,558	46	6	6,795	75	10	9
Rizal	2	104,830	13,726	91,104	77,949	46	6	68,330	45	5	9,619	56	5	12
Roxas	1	75,049	29,869	45,180	89,097	35	3	76,605	35	3	12,493	39	2	14
San Vicente	1	56,123	59,318	(3,195)	88,429	36	4	63,479	50	8	24,950	18	1	28
Taytay	1	116,438	30,363	86,075	100,530	27	1	88,241	25	1	12,289	40	3	12
Quezon		3,354,241	1,343,763	2,010,478	1,997,408			1,768,040			229,367			11
Agdangan	5	17,787	4,643	13,144	17,425	193	38	14,355	195	39	3,070	131	22	18
Alabat	5	39,874	18,450	21,424	21,829	174	34	20,905	174	34	924	182	34	4
Atimonan	2	76,187	12,009	64,178	61,042	63	12	59,965	56	9	1,077	176	32	2
Buenavista	4	53,769	18,672	35,097	29,763	144	24	25,023	151	28	4,740	98	16	16
Burdeos	4	28,529	5,672	22,857	29,209	149	25	25,200	150	27	4,009	116	19	14
Calauag	2	99,489	27,208	72,282	59,836	64	13	52,878	63	12	6,958	74	12	12
Candelaria	1	86,710	29,474	57,236	88,380	37	4	74,904	38	5	13,476	37	6	15
Catanauan	2	81,673	5,766	75,907	67,228	56	10	52,437	65	14	14,791	32	4	22
Dolores	4	44,682	15,764	28,917	31,039	137	23	26,527	144	26	4,512	105	17	15
General Luna	4	22,955	2,629	20,325	26,185	161	29	26,853	142	25	(667)	197	36	(3)
General Nakar	1	124,754	39,401	85,353	78,274	44	6	60,932	54	6	17,342	28	2	22
Gunayangan	3	52,461	18,173	34,288	41,100	105	20	37,580	95	19	3,521	122	20	9
Gumaca	2	104,788	40,701	64,087	62,695	62	11	54,063	62	11	8,633	62	8	14
Infanta	2	69,482	5,958	63,525	59,313	66	14	56,629	60	10	2,684	136	24	5
Jomalig	5	8,841	953	7,889	14,872	198	40	15,553	191	37	(681)	198	37	-5
Lopez	1	105,771	21,258	84,514	79,142	43	5	68,337	44	6	10,805	51	7	14
Lucban	3	38,092	11,953	26,139	50,659	82	17	52,829	64	13	(2,170)	201	40	-4
Macalelon	4	20,473	5,576	14,897	28,462	151	26	27,782	139	24	680	187	35	2
Mauban	1	720,671	301,322	419,349	239,131	13	1	193,986	14	1	45,145	10	1	19
Mulanay	2	48,274	10,920	37,355	53,406	75	16	47,326	77	18	6,079	81	13	11
Padre Burgos	5	23,851	5,543	18,308	23,714	170	33	22,544	165	32	1,170	170	31	5
Pagbilao	1	620,074	456,612	163,461	96,310	29	3	82,196	31	3	14,114	35	5	15
Panukulan	5	43,680	11,534	32,146	24,741	166	31	23,757	156	30	984	181	33	4
Patnanungan	5	20,284	3,755	16,530	20,609	176	35	13,173	199	40	7,437	71	11	36
Perez	5	21,995	8,736	13,259	18,032	190	37	15,616	190	36	2,416	140	25	13
Pitogo	5	33,226	7,833	25,393	25,045	164	30	22,159	168	33	2,886	135	23	12
Plaridel	5	24,599	10,175	14,424	16,220	195	39	14,681	194	38	1,538	163	28	9
Polillo	4	47,387	26,810	20,577	34,835	127	21	29,114	132	22	5,721	83	14	16
Quezon	5	20,698	8,474	12,224	20,291	181	36	16,212	189	35	4,079	114	18	20
Real	2	81,155	23,982	57,173	54,670	73	15	52,329	66	15	2,341	141	26	4
Sampaloc	5	30,702	9,329	21,373	24,102	168	32	22,656	163	31	1,446	164	29	6
San Andres	4	20,112	4,429	15,683	31,497	134	22	30,315	127	21	1,182	168	30	4
San Antonio	4	19,190	14,894	4,295	27,669	157	28	29,104	133	23	(1,435)	199	38	-5
San Francisco	3	19,518	6,642	12,875	50,466	83	18	48,187	74	17	2,279	145	27	5
San Narciso	3	65,688	3,405	62,283	42,411	102	19	34,703	112	20	7,707	68	10	18
Sariaya	1	78,239	13,205	65,034	99,469	28	2	93,972	24	2	5,497	87	15	6
Tagkawayan	2	118,469	27,535	90,933	67,486	55	9	51,670	67	16	15,816	30	3	23
Tayabas	1	86,536	35,732	50,804	78,229	45	7	80,295	33	4	(2,065)	200	39	(3)
Tiaong	1	88,508	54,118	34,390	74,316	50	8	66,296	48	7	8,020	65	9	11
Unisan	4	45,067	14,519	30,548	28,305	153	27	24,998	153	29	3,307	124	21	12
Rizal		3,413,776	978,611	2,435,165	1,784,977			1,455,734			329,243			18
Angono	1	130,962	45,895	85,067	95,225	31	7	84,057	29	7	11,167	47	8	12
Baras	4	45,143	34,893	10,250	32,119	131	12	27,150	141	12	4,969	96	11	15
Binangonan	1	232,149	153,698	78,451	187,222	16	4	152,640	16	4	34,582	14	4	18
Cainta	1	1,693,261	388,210	1,305,052	474,134	2	1	358,344	2	1	115,789	4	1	24
Cardona	3	58,803	6,366	52,437	44,133	97	11	35,689	106	11	8,444	63	9	19
Jala-Jala	4	45,269	18,181	27,088	30,741	130	13	22,744	161	13	7,997	66	10	26
Morong	3	40,248	16,013	31,236	47,834	85	10	43,766	82	10	4,068	115	13	9
Pililla	2	132,623	16,388	116,235	65,163	60	8	51,604	68	8	13,559	36	7	21
Rodriguez	1	258,982	171,562	87,420	254,509	10	2	236,200	8	2	18,309	24	6	7
San Mateo	1	270,954	40,281	230,673	141,577	19	5	98,022	23	5	43,555	11	2	31
Tanay	1	196,852	30,468	166,384	108,441	24	6	86,960	28	6	21,481	20	5	20
Taytay	1	241,867	33,340	208,527	251,307	11	3	210,615	12	3	40,692	12	3	16
Teresa	3	60,664	24,316	36,347	52,573	77	9	47,942	76	9	4,630	99	12	9
Romblon		500,711	112,365	388,346	392,266			353,741			38,526			10
Alcantara	5	14,934	3,887	11,047	19,313	187	10	18,668	178	8	645	188	17	3
Banton	5	16,646	6,680	9,965	15,755	196	13	14,105	197	13	1,650	160	11	10
Cajidiocan	4	45,663	3,853	41,810	29,227	148	5	24,828	154	6	4,399	108	3	15
Calatrava	5	33,123	2,067	31,056	18,238	189	11	16,579	185	11	1,659	158	10	9
Concepcion	5	16,084	2,685	13,499	14,124	200	16	12,958	200	15	1,166	171	13	8
Corcuera	5	18,025	1,439	16,586	17,821	191	12	15,262	193	12	2,560	138	5	14
Ferrol	5	11,300	5,087	6,214	13,685	202	17	12,128	201	16	1,558	162	12	11
Looc	4	36,129	27,421	8,707	29,865	143	4	29,039	134	3	826	186	16	3
Magdiwang	5	21,304	3,242	18,062	20,500	177	8	18,320	179	9	2,181	149	8	11
Odiongan	3	72,930	14,008	58,923	47,447	80	1	42,458	85	1	4,990	95	2	11
Romblon	4	42,196	2,171	40,025	35,792	124	2	34,014	114	2	1,778	156	9	5
San Agustin	4	30,247	5,908	24,339	27,931	155	6	26,814	143	4	1,116	175	14	4
San Andres	5	19,746	7,287	12,459	21,776	175	7	19,569	176	7	2,207	147	7	10
San Fernando	4	57,972	5,353	52,619	30,853	139	3	25,497	148	5	5,356	91	1	17
San Jose	-	7,669	2,522	5,147	15,150	197	14	11,888	202	17	3,262	125	4	22
Sta. Fe	5	35,652	13,914	21,738	20,336	180	9	18,054	180	10	2,284	144	6	11
Sta. Maria	5	21,091	4,941	16,150	14,450	199	15	13,562	198	14	889	184	15	6

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off
Rank
1-Regionwide Ranking *2-Provincewide Ranking*

(PDI-August 24, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 5, 6 AND 7
Fiscal Year 2005
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
REGION 5		5,979,183	1,647,325	4,331,857	4,260,854			3,693,637			567,216			13
Albay		1,369,659	308,901	1,060,759	773,463			626,738			146,725			19
Bacacay	2	94,572	11,433	83,139	48,673	30	8	31,037	59	11	17,637	3	2	36
Camalig	2	94,275	22,490	71,786	53,627	22	7	45,434	24	6	8,194	18	7	15
Daraga	1	265,499	100,055	156,444	109,161	1	1	78,813	2	1	30,348	1	1	28
Guinobatan	1	99,302	16,489	82,813	71,087	6	2	54,555	14	4	16,531	5	4	23
Jovellar	5	23,770	4,379	19,390	24,436	86	15	21,863	85	15	2,573	72	13	11
Libon	2	148,569	14,949	133,620	58,253	15	5	41,067	29	7	17,186	4	3	30
Malilipot	4	39,255	8,170	31,085	33,718	61	12	26,389	68	12	7,329	23	9	22
Malinao	4	42,989	4,336	38,653	36,513	53	11	36,345	39	9	169	104	15	0
Manito	4	51,539	7,451	44,088	27,310	79	14	22,881	80	14	4,428	54	12	16
Oas	2	48,373	25,130	23,243	57,665	16	6	46,835	19	5	10,831	10	5	19
Pio Duran	3	59,240	4,905	54,335	44,603	33	9	39,022	34	8	5,581	39	11	13
Polangui	1	108,772	38,463	70,309	64,616	12	4	62,506	8	2	2,110	82	14	3
Rapu-Rapu	4	39,757	4,542	35,215	40,879	43	10	33,557	48	10	7,322	24	10	18
Santo Domingo	4	98,939	13,295	85,644	32,244	63	13	24,646	71	13	7,598	22	8	24
Tiwi	2	154,809	23,814	130,995	70,677	7	3	61,789	9	3	8,888	14	6	13
Camarines Norte		874,694	270,329	604,365	535,251			471,494			63,756			12
Basud	3	56,415	17,451	38,965	40,521	45	7	33,963	44	6	6,558	32	5	16
Capalonga	4	57,648	10,949	46,698	37,226	51	9	32,169	54	9	5,057	45	7	14
Daet	1	110,905	70,741	40,164	88,514	3	2	79,896	1	1	8,618	16	3	10
Jose Panganiban	2	57,556	6,992	50,564	50,771	26	3	49,124	17	3	1,646	86	9	3
Labo	1	183,874	60,589	123,285	88,770	2	1	73,108	3	2	15,663	6	1	18
Mercedes	3	92,807	24,107	68,700	43,383	37	5	39,444	33	4	3,939	59	8	9
Paracale	3	113,695	17,085	96,610	43,395	36	4	36,579	38	5	6,816	31	4	16
San Lorenzo Ruiz	5	24,049	5,314	18,735	21,244	95	11	20,581	93	11	662	100	11	3
San Vicente	5	12,822	5,175	7,647	17,141	105	12	17,299	101	12	(158)	105	12	-1
Santa Elena	3	101,039	33,095	67,945	41,058	42	6	32,290	53	8	8,768	15	2	21
Talisay	5	27,259	10,539	16,721	24,532	85	10	23,720	74	10	812	95	10	3
Vinson	3	36,625	8,294	28,331	38,697	47	8	33,321	49	7	5,376	42	6	14
Camarines Sur		1,529,461	467,564	1,061,897	1,389,318			1,220,096			169,222			12
Baao	3	42,989	9,471	33,518	42,635	39	14	37,367	36	13	5,268	43	12	12
Balatan	4	56,918	20,190	36,729	26,413	81	28	22,171	83	29	4,242	55	15	16
Bato	3	29,482	10,195	19,287	38,582	48	15	35,691	41	14	2,891	68	22	7
Bombon	5	29,066	4,251	24,815	18,092	103	34	15,507	105	34	2,585	71	24	14
Buhi	2	49,999	10,002	39,997	60,322	14	5	54,282	15	5	6,040	36	9	10
Bula	3	95,233	48,582	46,652	51,484	24	10	47,406	18	7	4,078	57	17	8
Cabusao	5	31,978	5,520	26,458	21,950	94	32	21,206	90	31	744	97	34	3
Calabanga	2	23,939	12,550	11,389	62,949	13	4	57,837	11	4	5,112	44	13	8
Camaligan	5	30,925	2,081	28,844	20,965	97	33	17,311	100	33	3,654	62	19	17
Canaman	4	39,401	2,654	36,747	28,541	75	27	24,430	72	24	4,111	56	16	14
Caramoan	4	23,952	6,885	17,067	43,920	34	12	37,965	35	12	5,955	37	10	14
Del Gallego	4	50,596	6,199	44,398	30,968	69	22	23,710	75	25	7,258	25	4	23
Gainza	5	12,174	5,096	7,078	14,359	106	35	12,317	106	35	2,042	83	29	14
Garchitorena	4	22,855	6,334	16,521	31,359	67	21	29,045	62	20	2,314	77	27	7
Goa	2	50,182	28,240	21,942	52,313	23	9	45,768	22	9	6,544	33	6	13
Lagonoy	3	30,225	5,542	24,684	49,557	28	11	43,625	25	10	5,932	38	11	12
Libmanan	1	75,110	32,046	43,064	76,560	4	1	71,527	4	1	5,033	46	14	7
Lupi	4	33,284	14,734	18,550	35,420	58	19	33,620	46	16	1,800	85	31	5
Magarao	5	21,991	3,160	18,830	23,786	88	30	20,267	94	32	3,519	63	20	15
Milaor	4	25,145	19,682	5,463	29,229	74	26	23,185	79	27	6,044	35	8	21
Minalabac	4	57,064	9,201	47,862	37,073	52	16	34,018	43	15	3,055	67	21	8
Nabua	2	66,576	21,390	45,187	70,273	8	2	64,222	7	3	6,051	34	7	9
Ocampo	4	22,106	2,788	19,318	35,145	60	20	31,378	57	18	3,767	60	18	11
Pamplona	4	21,687	3,876	17,811	29,848	73	25	28,510	64	22	1,337	88	32	4
Pasacao	3	46,340	19,710	26,631	42,870	38	13	40,576	30	11	2,294	78	28	5
Pili	1	92,536	18,779	73,756	67,135	10	3	64,797	6	2	2,337	76	26	3
Presentacion	5	29,990	15,762	14,228	23,665	89	31	22,667	81	28	998	91	33	4
Ragay	2	62,838	21,380	41,459	54,088	21	8	46,189	20	8	7,900	20	3	15
Sagnay	4	59,635	37,199	22,436	30,478	72	24	29,756	61	19	722	99	35	2
San Fernando	4	56,838	5,188	51,650	35,703	57	18	23,419	77	26	12,284	8	2	34
San Jose	4	44,111	21,613	22,498	30,730	70	23	28,911	63	21	1,819	84	30	6
Sipocot	2	57,407	14,618	42,788	56,753	17	6	49,903	16	6	6,850	30	5	12
Siruma	5	18,678	2,685	15,993	24,378	87	29	21,735	87	30	2,642	69	23	11
Tigaon	4	22,343	5,831	16,512	36,141	56	17	33,617	47	17	2,523	73	25	7
Tinambac	2	95,867	14,152	81,715	55,637	19	7	26,159	69	23	29,478	2	1	53
Catanduanes		394,801	92,550	302,251	291,976			264,129			27,846			10
Bagamanoc	5	13,730	2,092	11,638	18,490	100	8	17,534	99	9	956	93	9	5
Baras	5	23,267	6,277	16,990	20,143	99	7	17,885	97	7	2,257	80	4	11
Bato	5	22,230	6,892	15,338	18,036	104	10	16,720	102	10	1,318	89	7	7
Caramoran	4	30,470	5,131	25,339	33,421	62	3	31,870	55	3	1,551	87	6	5
Gigmoto	5	27,177	3,537	23,640	5,305	107	11	5,537	107	11	(232)	106	11	-4
Pandan	5	34,818	4,254	30,564	24,924	83	5	21,803	86	5	3,121	66	3	13
Panganiban	5	6,590	1,169	5,421	18,351	102	9	17,617	98	8	734	98	10	4
San Andres	4	40,656	18,685	21,971	36,215	55	2	32,530	52	2	3,685	61	2	10
San Miguel	5	22,562	6,465	16,097	22,815	93	6	20,597	92	6	2,217	81	5	10
Viga	4	19,303	7,163	12,141	26,521	80	4	25,446	70	4	1,075	90	8	4
Virac	1	153,998	30,885	123,112	67,753	9	1	56,589	12	1	11,164	9	1	16
Masbate		1,076,871	247,348	829,523	725,159			618,507			106,652			15
Aroroy	1	125,724	46,514	79,210	65,052	11	1	60,038	10	1	5,014	47	10	8
Baleno	4	36,527	16,497	20,029	28,529	76	13	23,750	73	13	4,780	48	11	17
Balud	4	53,964	4,883	49,080	35,400	59	10	27,233	66	11	8,167	19	4	23
Batuan	5	29,021	6,876	22,145	18,407	101	20	16,117	103	19	2,290	79	18	12
Cataingan	3	78,469	5,857	72,612	49,740	27	3	42,774	27	4	6,966	28	7	14
Cawayan	3	39,406	9,384	30,021	48,732	29	4	43,282	26	3	5,450	41	9	11
Claveria	3	68,920	9,098	59,822	45,265	32	5	34,778	42	7	10,487	11	2	23
Dimasalang	4	34,510	11,364	23,146	27,930	78	15	23,195	78	14	4,735	49	12	17
Esperanza	5	22,587	3,210	19,377	21,101	98	19	18,608	96	18	2,493	74	16	12
Mandaon	3	44,398	16,123	28,275	37,744	49	9	33,679	45	8	4,066	58	14	11
Milagros	2	129,620	31,730	97,890	55,765	18	2	41,483	28	5	14,281	7	1	26
Mobo	4	19,734	2,884	16,851	31,324	68	11	26,875	67	12	4,449	53	13	14
Monreal	4	35,279	8,018	27,261	25,210	82	16	21,701	88	16	3,509	64	15	14
Palanas	4	31,378	6,319	25,059	30,662	71	12	29,817	60	10	845	94	19	3
Pio V. Corpuz	4	23,301	4,730	18,571	24,899	84	17	22,525	82	15	2,374	75	17	10
Placer	3	60,547	16,433	44,114	43,695	35	6	36,810	37	6	6,886	29	8	16
San Fernando	[illegible]	43,323	5,210	38,113	23,037	91	18	15,864	104	20	7,173	26	5	31
San Jacinto	4	73,155	16,568	56,587	28,500	77	14	21,501	89	17	7,000	27	6	25
San Pascual	3	66,124	12,962	53,162	42,185	40	7	45,587	23	2	(3,402)	107	20	-8
Uson	3	60,885	12,687	48,198	41,982	41	8	32,890	51	9	9,093	13	3	22
Sorsogon		733,696	260,634	473,063	545,687			492,673			53,015			10
Barcelona	5	13,530	5,907	7,623	23,373	90	12	20,752	91	13	2,622	70	17	11
Bulan	1	125,090	57,815	67,275	75,258	5	1	65,941	5	1	9,316	12	1	12
Bulusan	5	39,599	10,538	29,061	32,160	65	10	23,609	76	11	8,550	17	3	27
Casiguran	4	132,989	43,704	89,285	32,170	64	9	27,641	65	10	4,528	52	13	14
Castilla	3	45,639	7,190	38,450	36,232	54	8	31,697	56	8	4,535	51	11	13
Donsol	3	30,116	10,655	19,461	40,737	44	5	40,488	31	4	249	103	27	1
Gubat	2	69,870	23,394	46,477	51,432	25	3	45,952	21	3	5,480	40	7	11
Irosin	3	64,228	15,298	48,930	47,708	31	4	40,091	32	5	7,617	21	5	16
Juban	4	35,709	6,538	29,171	31,451	66	11	31,174	58	9	276	101	23	1
Magallanes	4	56,372	23,785	32,586	37,633	50	7	32,979	50	7	4,654	50	9	12
Matnog	4	52,069	19,019	33,050	39,213	46	6	36,080	40	6	3,133	65	15	8
Pilar	2	30,926	23,818	7,107	55,108	20	2	54,847	13	2	260	102	25	0
Prieto Diaz	5	13,984	6,255	7,729	22,914	92	13	22,115	84	12	799	96	21	3
Santa Magdalena	5	23,576	6,719	16,857	20,300	98	14	19,307	95	14	993	92	19	5
REGION 6		7,005,214	2,004,577	5,000,637	4,655,858			4,228,873			426,985			9
Aklan		744,817	159,464	585,353	586,067			521,958			64,108			11
Altavas	4	32,150	7,874	24,276	28,110	92	11	27,865	83	10	245	104	17	1
Balete	4	47,977	10,100	37,877	29,180	87	9	23,837	101	14	5,343	26	4	18
Banga	4	52,097	5,806	46,291	32,983	70	6	30,857	67	5	2,126	73	11	6
Batan	4	18,736	4,190	14,546	28,080	93	12	24,674	95	12	3,406	57	6	12
Buruanga	5	61,175	2,118	59,057	21,713	112	16	19,344	112	16	2,369	69	9	11
Ibajay	3	57,645	35,429	22,216	41,775	44	3	38,301	46	3	3,474	55	5	8
Kalibo	1	120,621	21,889	98,733	95,384	1	1	77,747	2	1	17,637	1	1	18
Lezo	5	19,879	6,396	13,484	18,385	117	17	16,503	116	17	1,883	77	13	10
Libacao	5	40,238	1,799	38,440	34,836	65	5	32,797	58	4	2,039	74	12	6
Madalag	4	15,997	3,281	12,716	30,371	82	8	29,114	74	6	1,256	84	15	4
Makato	4	29,590	9,113	20,477	27,457	95	13	25,933	91	11	1,524	82	14	6
Malay	3	72,159	20,522	51,637	51,548	25	2	43,687	29	2	7,861	16	2	15
Malinao	4	46,136	9,993	36,143	31,084	76	7	28,557	79	9	2,527	66	8	8
Nabas	4	25,502	3,970	21,532	29,111	88	10	28,606	78	8	505	99	16	2
New Washington	4	51,568	9,201	42,367	35,610	59	4	28,712	77	7	6,898	20	3	19
Numancia	4	23,693	3,962	19,731	27,315	96	14	24,536	98	13	2,779	62	7	10
Tangalan	5	29,655	3,822	25,832	23,125	110	15	20,889	108	15	2,236	70	10	10
Antique		945,855	311,238	634,617	630,987			553,273			77,714			12
Anini-y	5	30,599	16,260	14,339	27,079	98	13	22,490	104	15	4,590	32	6	17
Barbaza	4	33,797	5,332	28,464	26,995	99	14	26,352	89	13	643	94	15	2
Belison	5	34,531	26,430	8,102	19,132	116	18	18,164	115	18	968	89	13	5
Bugasong	4	55,102	9,298	45,804	35,941	56	7	32,723	59	6	3,218	58	9	9
Caluya	4	83,821	29,699	54,122	49,299	26	3	32,646	60	7	16,653	2	1	34
Culasi	3	31,945	7,806	24,140	40,999	47	5	41,621	34	3	(623)	108	17	(2)
Hamtic	4	27,719	13,730	13,988	38,684	52	6	35,234	50	5	3,450	56	8	9
Laua-an	4	38,388	7,158	31,229	26,848	101	15	21,242	107	16	5,605	24	5	21
Libertad	5	45,335	17,730	27,605	21,003	114	17	20,079	110	17	924	90	14	4
Pandan	4	57,789	37,221	20,568	31,262	75	9	30,120	70	9	1,142	86	12	4
Patnongon	4	55,478	2,072	53,405	35,828	57	8	38,338	45	4	(2,510)	114	18	(7)
San Jose de Buenav	2	105,051	28,527	76,524	64,260	7	1	50,579	16	1	13,681	3	2	21
San remigio	3	57,932	8,753	49,179	41,269	46	4	31,657	64	8	9,612	10	4	23
Sebaste	5	43,604	28,951	14,653	25,126	105	16	24,611	96	14	515	88	16	2
Sibalom	2	91,737	13,536	78,201	55,833	17	2	45,285	27	2	10,548	7	3	19
Tibiao	4	54,921	11,451	43,471	29,895	86	12	27,150	86	11	2,745	63	10	9
Tobias Fornier	4	43,893	17,493	26,401	30,748	80	11	26,791	87	12	3,956	50	7	13
Vaderrama	4	54,212	29,790	24,422	30,788	79	10	28,190	80	10	2,598	65	11	8
Capiz		708,090	129,131	578,959	601,589			566,756			34,833			6
Cuartero	4	40,697	3,131	37,566	30,225	84	16	31,017	66	11	(791)	109	11	(3)
Dao	4	22,950	4,891	18,060	31,703	73	11	29,888	72	12	1,815	80	12	6
Dumalag	4	63,634	8,546	55,088	30,355	83	14	27,197	85	13	3,158	60	13	10
Dumarao	3	45,305	12,014	33,291	43,627	37	3	39,239	40	6	4,388	42	6	10
Ivisan	4	63,499	12,274	51,225	28,428	91	16	24,261	100	16	4,167	48	16	15
Jamindan	3	28,185	7,147	21,038	44,704	33	2	47,458	25	2	(2,754)	116	2	(6)
Maayon	4	36,737	6,222	30,515	42,743	43	5	44,954	28	3	(2,211)	113	3	(5)
Mambusao	4	44,579	6,614	37,965	37,998	54	7	34,130	55	10	3,868	53	10	10
Panay	3	44,055	6,474	37,581	41,766	45	6	41,487	35	4	279	102	4	1
Panitan	4	39,682	6,006	33,677	37,065	55	8	36,175	49	7	890	92	7	2
Pilar	4	53,823	8,229	45,594	35,726	58	9	34,888	51	8	838	93	6	2
Pontevedra	3	40,458	11,712	28,746	43,495	36	4	41,003	36	5	2,492	67	5	6
Pres. Roxas	4	49,393	17,762	31,631	31,680	74	12	34,238	54	9	(2,558)	115	9	(8)
Sapian	4	48,136	2,411	45,726	30,790	78	13	26,232	90	14	4,558	34	14	15
Sigma	4	55,902	8,984	46,918	35,551	61	10	25,106	94	15	10,445	9	15	29
Tapaz	2	31,063	6,723	24,340	55,732	18	1	49,484	18	1	6,248	22	1	11
Guimaras		345,994	74,395	271,599	168,495			152,473			16,022			10
Buenavista	3	77,830	17,366	60,465	43,999	35	1	36,962	48	2	7,037	18	1	16
Jordan	3	67,812	11,156	56,656	40,076	49	2	39,555	39	1	522	97	5	1
Nueva Valencia	4	91,927	7,902	84,025	35,463	62	3	31,108	65	3	4,355	43	2	12
San Lorenzo	5	41,743	25,791	15,952	23,475	109	5	21,279	106	5	2,195	71	3	9
Sibunag	5	66,082	12,181	54,501	25,483	103	4	23,569	102	4	1,914	76	4	8
Iloilo		2,453,605	699,876	1,753,729	1,670,749			1,530,978			139,770			8
Ajuy	3	60,539	13,823	46,716	42,970	41	20	38,517	43	18	4,453	38	14	10
Alimodian	4	53,010	18,292	34,718	38,581	53	21	33,367	57	23	5,214	27	9	14
Anilao	4	27,614	5,569	22,045	28,075	94	34	28,131	81	31	(56)	108	39	0
Badiangan	4	37,840	4,212	33,629	26,066	102	36	25,797	92	33	268	103	37	1
Balasan	4	36,622	7,076	29,546	30,539	81	31	27,894	82	32	2,644	64	26	9
Banate	4	41,765	10,853	30,912	33,232	66	27	29,306	73	28	3,927	51	22	12
Barotac Nuevo	3	62,963	4,976	57,987	48,531	28	11	46,839	26	12	1,692	81	30	3
Barotac Viejo	4	67,886	15,661	52,225	43,298	39	18	38,652	42	17	4,646	30	9	11
Batad	5	20,332	2,440	17,892	22,729	111	40	18,462	114	41	4,267	46	20	19
Bingawan	4	21,232	2,513	18,719	21,173	113	41	19,191	113	40	1,982	75	28	9
Cabatuan	3	112,335	27,527	84,808	47,424	31	14	43,023	31	13	4,401	41	17	9
Calinog	2	67,928	17,760	50,168	54,743	19	6	56,267	10	3	(1,523)	112	42	(3)
Carles	3	31,981	13,502	18,479	53,106	22	8	53,911	13	6	(805)	110	40	(2)
Concepcion	4	41,689	13,096	28,593	35,584	60	22	34,353	53	22	1,231	85	32	3
Dingle	3	76,618	13,595	63,024	42,987	40	19	38,262	47	20	4,724	29	8	11
Duenas	3	47,798	5,731	42,067	34,379	66	25	28,960	75	29	5,419	25	5	16
Dumangas	3	160,176	31,258	128,917	58,476	11	3	58,284	7	1	192	105	38	0
Estancia	4	46,314	29,076	17,238	43,883	36	17	42,015	32	14	1,868	78	29	4
Guimbal	4	69,622	15,462	54,161	32,353	71	28	28,725	76	30	3,628	54	23	11
Igbaras	3	37,169	9,359	27,810	33,618	67	26	30,390	68	25	3,227	58	24	10
Janiuay	2	76,152	36,437	39,715	54,583	20	7	54,264	12	5	319	100	36	1
Lambunao	3	61,785	9,753	52,032	58,260	12	4	56,810	8	2	1,450	83	31	2
Leganes	4	57,601	27,526	30,075	30,896	77	30	29,973	71	27	924	91	34	3
Lemery	4	36,104	10,051	26,053	30,180	85	32	25,664	93	34	4,516	36	12	15
Leon	3	69,997	27,428	42,569	44,412	34	16	40,110	38	16	4,302	46	19	10
Maasin	3	46,145	13,238	32,908	35,073	63	23	32,153	62	24	2,920	61	25	8
Miag-Ao	3	108,144	46,546	61,598	57,092	14	5	49,886	17	8	7,206	17	4	13
Mina	5	68,343	12,315	56,028	24,406	107	39	19,916	111	39	4,490	37	13	18
New Lucena	4	39,891	6,827	33,064	24,706	106	38	20,164	109	38	4,542	35	11	18
Oton	2	101,052	30,135	70,917	63,639	8	1	50,900	15	7	12,739	5	1	20
Pavia	3	66,950	28,737	38,213	51,959	24	10	47,692	24	11	4,266	47	21	8
Pototan	2	126,301	38,247	88,054	59,531	9	2	54,802	11	4	4,729	28	7	8
San Dionisio	4	33,194	1,587	31,608	32,337	72	29	30,144	69	26	2,194	72	27	7
San Enrique	4	32,595	23,234	9,360	34,998	64	24	34,466	52	21	532	96	35	2
San Joaquin	3	69,183	17,967	51,217	48,517	29	12	40,641	37	15	7,876	15	3	16
San Miguel	5	41,992	15,924	26,069	26,854	100	35	22,267	105	37	4,588	33	10	17
San Rafael	4	28,958	6,858	22,100	20,179	115	42	15,772	117	42	4,407	40	16	22
Sara	3	50,295	25,816	24,479	47,900	30	13	49,362	19	9	(1,461)	111	41	(3)
Sta Barbara	3	83,737	31,314	52,423	52,543	23	9	48,101	22	10	4,442	39	15	8
Tigbauan	3	56,258	12,207	44,051	46,555	32	15	38,485	44	19	8,070	13	2	17
Tubungan	4	39,740	9,291	30,449	25,476	104	37	24,499	99	36	977	88	33	4
Zarraga	4	37,757	6,660	31,096	28,905	90	33	24,561	97	35	4,344	44	18	15
Negros Occidental		1,806,853	630,474	1,176,379	997,972			903,435			94,537			9
Binalbagan	2	143,277	62,419	80,858	65,330	6	5	63,481	6	5	1,858	79	14	3
Calatrava	1	180,837	45,069	135,768	80,088	4	3	69,463	4	3	10,624	6	2	13
Candoni	4	30,755	4,928	25,827	28,967	89	17	26,515	88	16	2,452	68	13	8
Cauayan	1	157,009	63,170	93,839	92,415	2	1	79,449	1	1	12,966	4	1	14
E.B. Magalona	2	101,852	28,130	73,722	57,299	13	7	48,762	20	8	8,538	12	5	15
Hinigaran	1	120,983	63,807	57,177	82,110	3	2	72,660	3	2	9,450	11	4	12
Hinobaan	2	79,734	24,673	55,061	58,702	10	6	48,196	21	9	10,507	8	3	18
Ilog	3	119,009	46,690	72,319	56,641	16	9	56,327	9	6	314	101	17	1
Isabela	3	129,796	12,386	117,411	48,883	27	11	41,978	33	12	6,905	19	7	14
La Castellana	2	56,566	18,793	37,773	56,700	15	8	52,832	14	7	3,868	52	12	7
M. Padilla	3	89,229	25,059	64,170	39,937	51	15	33,568	56	14	6,369	21	8	16
Manapla	3	79,328	31,071	48,257	54,019	21	10	47,924	23	10	6,096	23	9	11
Murcia	1	144,452	90,422	54,030	69,351	5	4	64,739	5	4	4,613	31	10	7
Palupandan	4	44,606	15,767	28,838	39,984	50	14	43,585	30	11	(3,601)	117	19	(9)
Pontevedra	3	122,006	54,458	67,548	42,897	42	12	38,817	41	13	4,080	49	11	10
S. Benedicto	4	53,292	11,784	41,508	27,202	97	18	27,266	84	17	(65)	107	18	0
San Enrique	5	26,186	4,569	21,617	24,036	108	19	23,490	103	19	546	95	16	2
Toboso	3	88,744	15,350	73,395	40,257	48	13	32,306	61	15	7,951	14	6	20
Valladolid	4	39,191	11,930	27,261	33,144	69	16	32,076	63	16	1,068	87	15	3
REGION 7		8,195,182	2,222,829	5,972,353	4,555,578			3,906,703			648,875			14
Bohol		2,250,993	581,382	1,669,610	1,462,048			1,293,083			168,965			12
Albuquerque	5	23,157	4,093	19,064	17,285	117	45	15,285	118	47	2,000	90	28	12
Alicia	4	32,726	9,344	23,383	29,327	73	22	25,528	74	22	3,798	63	17	13
Anda	5	6,857	2,149	4,708	22,876	101	36	21,170	91	33	1,706	97	32	7
Antequera	4	39,909	4,709	35,200	27,018	82	27	23,859	82	26	3,159	75	20	12
Baclayon	5	53,793	6,138	47,655	24,994	91	31	19,625	101	38	5,370	46	11	21
Balilihan	4	46,234	9,979	36,254	26,290	84	29	23,780	83	27	2,510	84	24	10
Batuan	5	31,188	6,175	25,013	18,636	115	44	16,481	113	45	2,155	87	26	12
Bien Unido	5	30,884	11,317	19,567	24,192	92	32	22,377	86	30	1,815	93	30	8
Bilar	4	37,099	9,684	27,415	27,696	80	26	27,573	62	18	123	115	43	0
Buenavista	4	33,753	9,797	23,956	30,657	63	18	31,486	47	12	(829)	117	44	(3)
Calape	4	54,383	5,878	48,505	34,021	51	10	33,304	38	8	718	109	40	2
Candijay	4	31,451	5,469	25,983	32,343	55	13	31,493	46	11	850	107	38	3
Carmen	2	125,405	27,654	97,751	65,588	13	2	51,170	16	4	14,417	9	2	22
Catigbian	4	39,876	8,197	31,679	29,267	74	23	26,186	72	21	3,081	76	21	11
Clarin	5	34,173	2,078	32,095	22,822	102	37	20,627	96	36	2,195	86	25	10
Corella	5	12,328	2,215	10,113	19,006	112	43	17,737	111	43	1,269	105	37	7
Cortes	5	8,044	1,058	6,986	21,622	105	39	20,869	94	35	753	108	39	3
Dagohoy	5	34,179	3,932	30,248	23,062	99	35	21,000	93	34	2,062	89	27	9
Danao	4	44,364	9,037	35,327	27,727	79	25	28,597	58	15	(870)	118	45	(3)
Dauis	4	32,714	7,981	24,733	30,837	61	17	27,985	57	16	2,851	78	22	9
Dimiao	5	32,062	5,355	26,707	23,743	94	33	22,468	84	28	1,275	104	36	5
Duero	5	19,276	9,032	10,243	20,092	108	41	19,510	103	40	582	111	41	3
Garcia-Hernandez	4	44,884	10,986	33,897	32,288	57	15	27,062	64	19	5,226	49	13	16
Getafe	4	44,852	12,424	32,429	33,947	52	11	29,009	54	14	4,938	51	14	15
Guindulman	4	58,330	10,750	47,579	34,401	49	9	25,005	78	24	9,397	21	5	27
Inabanga	3	86,404	29,887	56,517	40,830	38	7	34,549	35	7	6,281	38	8	15
Jagna	4	92,390	40,445	51,945	55,129	21	5	38,373	30	6	16,756	6	1	30
Lila	5	20,093	8,421	11,671	19,537	111	42	17,986	110	42	1,551	100	33	8
Loay	5	14,760	679	14,082	21,457	107	40	19,593	102	39	1,864	92	29	9
Loboc	5	19,081	2,883	16,178	25,751	88	30	22,156	87	31	3,596	66	19	14
Loon	3	110,473	55,759	54,714	48,128	26	6	44,281	23	5	3,847	62	16	8
Mabini	4	49,544	17,198	32,346	31,738	60	16	26,498	69	20	5,240	48	12	17
Maribojoc	5	36,102	4,087	32,014	26,352	83	28	22,388	85	29	3,964	59	16	15
Panglao	4	53,720	3,195	50,526	32,309	56	14	24,799	79	25	7,510	29	7	23
Pilar	4	55,261	26,854	28,407	30,485	66	19	32,041	44	9	(1,557)	120	47	(5)
Pres Garcia	5	33,328	3,100	30,228	23,575	97	34	21,807	89	32	1,768	96	31	8
Sagbayan	4	30,103	15,137	14,967	27,998	78	24	25,262	77	23	2,737	81	23	10
San Isidro	5	16,718	3,066	13,652	17,166	118	46	16,605	112	44	561	112	42	3
San Miguel	4	25,925	9,142	16,782	29,345	72	21	30,367	49	13	(1,023)	119	46	(3)
Sevilla	5	25,265	1,442	23,823	21,826	104	38	20,505	97	37	1,321	103	35	6
Sierra-bullones	4	70,809	8,039	62,770	33,411	53	12	27,647	59	17	5,764	42	9	17
Sikatuna	5	23,237	3,556	19,681	16,999	119	47	15,610	116	46	1,389	102	34	8
Talibon	1	140,595	47,837	92,758	68,109	10	1	62,494	9	1	5,615	43	10	8
Trinidad	4	66,965	37,148	29,817	35,493	47	8	31,795	45	10	3,698	65	18	10
Tubigon	3	126,842	45,683	81,159	62,581	17	4	55,032	12	2	7,548	28	6	12
Ubay	2	113,010	14,210	98,800	64,295	14	3	54,723	14	3	9,572	18	4	15
Valencia	4	88,466	8,186	80,280	29,795	69	20	19,387	104	41	10,409	16	3	35
Cebu		3,914,025	1,033,654	2,880,370	2,021,506			1,687,761			333,746			17
Alcantara	5	41,364	6,974	34,390	18,896	113	45	14,830	119	47	4,066	58	33	22
Alcoy	5	82,546	16,654	65,893	26,987	86	37	22,039	88	37	3,948	60	34	15
Alegria	4	45,728	13,172	32,556	26,132	85	36	24,686	80	35	1,446	101	45	6
Aloguinsan	4	25,540	5,885	19,655	25,851	87	38	20,664	95	39	5,187	50	28	20
Argao	2	171,640	46,195	125,445	55,049	22	12	48,298	20	11	6,752	35	21	12
Asturias	3	100,154	14,977	85,176	42,779	33	18	29,029	53	26	13,750	11	7	32
Badian	4	49,109	13,754	35,355	35,822	46	26	26,869	66	30	8,953	24	14	25
Balamban	1	152,969	49,233	103,736	101,980	1	1	80,318	1	1	21,662	1	1	21
Bantayan	2	110,810	13,052	97,758	62,109	19	10	55,556	11	7	6,553	36	22	11
Barili	3	102,338	21,581	80,757	49,272	24	14	45,689	21	12	3,583	67	36	7
Bogo	1	283,426	126,879	156,546	81,788	5	3	67,572	6	4	14,217	10	6	17
Boljo-on	5	56,928	28,753	28,175	24,149	93	40	18,555	108	43	5,594	44	26	23
Borbon	4	27,796	4,717	23,079	30,481	66	32	28,778	55	27	1,703	98	44	6
Carcar	1	146,286	44,422	101,864	77,583	6	4	69,419	5	3	8,164	26	15	11
Carmen	3	85,130	13,253	71,877	42,734	34	19	33,257	39	19	9,477	19	11	22
Catmon	4	58,448	7,254	51,194	32,130	58	29	26,247	70	33	5,883	40	24	18
Compostela	4	70,109	19,583	50,526	36,629	44	24	29,874	51	24	6,755	34	20	18
Consolacion	2	158,503	44,321	114,182	72,552	8	5	63,403	8	6	9,149	23	13	13
Cordova	4	61,792	18,445	43,347	39,201	42	23	29,165	52	25	10,036	17	10	26
Daan Bantayan	2	177,444	41,276	136,168	62,122	18	9	45,223	22	13	16,899	5	3	27
Dalaguete	2	142,111	51,718	90,394	66,135	12	8	50,853	17	9	15,282	8	5	23
Dumanjug	4	62,602	26,993	35,609	40,738	39	22	37,577	31	16	3,161	74	39	8
Ginatilan	5	32,967	9,516	23,451	23,583	96	42	16,279	114	45	7,303	31	17	31
Liloan	2	104,166	31,113	73,054	66,518	11	7	54,960	13	8	11,558	15	9	17
Madridejos	4	23,492	3,158	20,334	34,637	48	27	30,352	50	23	4,285	55	31	12
Malabuyoc	5	38,196	14,613	23,583	23,687	95	41	20,161	99	40	3,526	68	37	15
Medellin	3	134,730	20,662	114,067	48,059	27	15	42,287	27	15	5,773	41	25	12
Minglanilla	1	111,681	24,733	86,948	72,354	9	6	65,531	7	5	6,824	33	19	9
Moalboal	4	50,767	11,014	39,753	36,052	45	26	34,099	37	18	1,953	91	42	5
Naga	1	219,980	65,137	154,843	97,929	3	2	77,715	3	2	20,214	3	2	21
Oslob	4	54,416	14,683	39,733	28,688	77	34	26,609	68	32	2,079	88	41	7
Pilar	5	26,649	5,519	21,129	17,673	116	47	18,179	109	44	(507)	116	47	[illegible]
Pinamungahan	3	85,456	14,531	70,925	43,949	31	16	32,066	43	22	11,883	14	8	27
Poro	4	49,946	15,773	34,173	30,513	64	31	24,212	81	36	6,301	37	23	21
Ronda	5	24,589	5,188	19,401	22,527	103	44	19,299	105	41	3,228	73	38	14
Samboan	5	39,848	5,624	34,225	23,295	98	43	19,075	107	42	4,220	56	32	18
San Fernando	2	105,112	24,488	80,624	56,167	20	11	49,236	19	10	6,932	32	18	12
San Fransisco	4	81,042	8,380	72,662	41,696	37	21	32,471	41	20	9,225	22	12	22
San Remigio	3	77,665	5,985	71,681	42,093	36	20	36,737	33	17	5,356	47	27	13
Santa Fe	5	19,094	2,906	16,188	25,538	89	39	21,170	92	38	4,368	53	29	17
Santander	5	51,258	28,992	22,266	27,112	81	35	26,721	67	31	390	113	46	1
Sibonga	3	142,780	24,079	118,701	42,783	32	17	27,357	63	29	15,426	7	4	36
Sogod	4	73,324	31,394	41,930	32,016	59	30	27,717	68	28	4,299	54	30	13
Tabogon	4	31,649	16,149	15,500	34,039	50	26	32,232	42	21	1,806	94	43	5
Tabuelan	4	21,714	1,229	20,484	29,606	71	33	26,695	73	34	3,912	61	35	13
Tuburan	2	78,632	14,991	63,642	52,110	23	13	43,997	25	14	8,113	27	16	16
Tudela	5	22,097	4,707	17,390	18,765	114	46	15,706	115	46	3,058	77	40	16
Negros Oriental		1,794,725	568,324	1,226,401	940,947			808,636			132,312			14
Amlan	4	32,549	8,945	23,604	30,305	68	17	27,630	60	15	2,675	82	17	9
Ayungon	3	87,729	23,868	63,861	44,008	30	9	42,795	26	7	1,214	106	20	3
Bacong	4	82,809	35,616	47,193	42,433	35	10	35,096	34	11	7,337	30	7	17
Basay	4	74,951	25,882	49,068	29,700	70	18	26,206	71	17	3,495	69	12	12
Bindoy	4	70,070	35,554	34,516	40,143	41	12	36,821	32	10	3,322	72	14	8
Dauin	4	33,491	11,568	21,922	28,949	76	19	25,464	75	18	3,484	70	13	12
Guihulngan	1	154,593	78,032	76,561	92,045	4	2	71,559	4	2	20,486	2	1	22
Jimalalud	4	41,359	9,501	31,858	30,420	67	16	27,598	61	16	2,822	80	18	9
La Libertad	3	66,118	21,604	44,514	40,380	40	11	34,148	36	12	6,231	39	8	15
Mabinay	2	147,937	16,308	131,629	62,725	16	5	50,571	18	5	12,154	12	3	19
Manjuyod	3	117,884	21,603	96,280	47,903	28	7	44,184	24	6	3,719	64	11	8
Pamplona	3	66,707	31,081	35,626	37,248	43	13	33,164	40	13	4,085	57	10	11
San Jose	5	33,547	13,497	20,049	21,595	106	20	19,901	100	20	1,694	99	19	8
Siaton	2	77,484	30,766	46,718	63,072	15	4	53,672	15	4	9,400	20	5	15
Sibulan	3	49,748	9,443	40,305	48,796	25	6	40,203	29	9	8,593	25	6	18
Sta Catalina	1	161,518	55,853	105,664	73,522	7	3	61,538	10	3	11,984	13	4	16
Tayasan	4	69,120	34,828	34,292	44,295	29	8	41,453	28	8	2,842	79	15	6
Valencia	1	325,138	78,731	246,407	99,860	2	1	80,307	2	1	19,574	4	2	20
Vallehermoso	4	32,469	7,084	25,385	32,704	54	14	30,930	48	14	1,774	95	18	5
Zamboanguita	4	69,506	18,558	50,948	30,823	62	15	25,395	76	10	5,428	45	9	18
Siquijor		235,440	39,469	195,971	131,077			117,224			13,853			11
E. Villanueva	5	14,040	2,311	11,729	14,014	120	6	13,708	120	6	307	114	6	2
Larena	5	30,244	4,567	25,677	22,922	100	3	20,358	98	3	2,564	83	3	11
Lazi	4	65,187	13,689	51,498	25,160	90	2	21,676	90	2	3,483	71	2	14
Maria	5	25,964	3,324	22,641	19,872	110	5	19,211	106	4	661	110	5	3
San Juan	5	37,291	4,323	32,968	19,064	109	4	15,648	117	5	4,417	52	1	22
Siquijor	4	62,714	11,256	51,458	29,144	75	1	26,723	66	1	2,421	85	4	8

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank: 1-Regionwide Ranking 2-Provincewide Ranking

(PDI-August 24, 2006)

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET
SUPER AUCTION SALE

AUGUST 26, 2006 ~ Saturday ~ 9:30AM ~ 11/F UCPB BLDG., MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY

10% DOWNPAYMENT **11% INTEREST** **10 YEARS TO PAY**

Manila Southwoods Res'l. & Golf & Country Club
Carmona, Cavite 7 Residential Lots ~ LA 470-609 sqm
ONLY AT P3,600/sqm

Villa Josefina Resort Village
Talomo, Davao Del 66 Residential Lots ~ LA 105-650 sqm
As LOW As P2,800/sqm

St. Joseph Homes Subdivision
Toril, Davao Del 41 Residential Lots ~ LA 60-110 sqm
ONLY AT P1,100/sqm

METRO MANILA

CALOOCAN

Prop. 1 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 650 sqm FA 564 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 48-D # 86 & 88-A, A. del Mundo St., Grace Park,
Minimun Bid Price: P 8,109,000.00

MANILA

Res'l. Condo, Golesco Regency Twin Towers, 1127 Concepcion St., Ermita
Prop. 2 - Unit 2104, 21/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,362,000.00
Prop. 3 - Unit 2203, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00
Prop. 4 - Unit 2204, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,372,000.00
Prop. 5 - Unit 2303, 23/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00

MAKATI CITY

Prop. 6 - Comm'l. Condo FA 401 sqm
Unit 1-A (G/F) Biltmore Condo, 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill. (w/ 4parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 35,360,000.00

Comm'l. Condo, 88 Corp. Valero cor. Sedeno Sts., Salcedo Village
Prop. 7 - Unit 2801 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00
Prop. 8 - Unit 2804 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00

Comm'l Condo 3rd Flr. Valero Plaza (Cityland Condo. IV) No. 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Prop. 9 – Unit 339 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 10 – Unit 340 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 11 – Unit 341 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 12 – Unit 342 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 13 Unit 343 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 14 – Unit 344 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 15 – Unit 345 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00

Prop. 16 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 633 sqm FA 442 sqm
1765 & 1767 Garcia St., (Reposo St.) San Miguel Village.
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,160,000.00

Prop. 17 - Comm'l. Lot LA 12,322 sqm
2248 Chino Roces Ave., (Pasong Tamo Ext., Kayamanan B,
Minimum Bid Price: P 512,110,000.00

Prop. 18 – Res'l Condo FA 211 sqm
Lot Blk 2 Unit 201 Makati Prime City, St. Paul St., San Antonio,
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,320,000.00

Prop. 19 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 484 sqm FA 825 sqm
#2122 Chino Roces Ave, (formerly Pasong Tamo) Brgy Pio del Pilar, Kayamanan A
Minimum Bid Price: P 26,435,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

Prop. 20 – Residential Lot LA 572 sqm
L2 Abalone St, Jaleville Subd. San Dionisio,
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,690,000.00

Prop. 21 – Res'l. Condo w/ parking slot
FA 158 sqm
9th Flr. Chateau de Baie Condo, Roxas Boulevard cor. Airport Road, Baclaran,
Minimun Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00

PASIG CITY

Prop. 22 - Comm'l. Lot LA 922 sqm
Lot 16 Blk 5 San Miguel Ave. & Amethyst St., Ortigas Center, Brgy. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: P 122,626,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Prop. 23 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 114.30 sqm FA 118 sm
5-A Alvarez St., Project 4
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,788,000.00

Prop. 24 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 3,375 sqm
18 Samar St., South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price: P 54,238,000.00

Prop. 25 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 684 sqm FA 800 sqm
25 Kingsville St., White Plains Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,072,000.00

Prop. 26 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 160 sqm FA 196 sqm
Lot 9 & 11 Blk 4 Jade St., Silverland Subd., Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,616,000.00

Prop. 27 - Residential Lot LA 168 sqm
Lot 4-A-1 # 8 J. P. Rizal St., Marilag
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,016,000.00

METRO MANILA

QUEZON CITY

Prop. 28 - Residential Lot LA 532 sqm
Lot 4-A-2 # 8 J. P. Rizal St., Marilag
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,384,000.00

WITHDRAWN

Prop. 30 - Residential Lot LA 154 sqm
Lot B Matulum St., Brgy. Maharlika, Sta. Mesa Heights
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,340,000.00

Prop. 31 - Comm'l. / Indus'l. Lot
LA 2,401 sqm
114 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: P 16,928,000.00

RIZAL

Prop. 32 – Residential Lot LA 834 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 2 Salford St., Town & Country Estates, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,282,400.00

SAN JUAN

Prop. 33 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 255 sqm FA 365 sqm
26 A. Bonifacio St., Brgy Kabayanan
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,393,000.00

Prop. 34 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 60 sqm FA 86 sqm
22 B-1 U8 Metrohomes Executive Townhomes. F Benitez St.
Minimun Bid Price: P 1,306,000.00

Prop. 35 – Comm'l. Lot LA 352 sqm
Lot 3-A-1 A. Mendoza St., (formerly Paraiso St.)
Minimun Bid Price: P 5,315,000.00

LUZON

BATAAN

WITHDRAWN

CAMARINES SUR

Prop. 37 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 600 sqm FA 660 sqm
L14 & 15 Blk 3 Soriano St., Villa Sorella Subd., Concepcion Grande, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,103,000.00

CAVITE

Prop. 38 - Comm'l. Lot LA 2,105 sqm
L1-B Molino Rd cor. Macaria Ave.Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,793,000.00

LAGUNA

Prop. 39 – Residential Lot LA 210 sqm
Lot 7 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 430,670.00

Prop. 40 – Res'l. Lot LA 223 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 457,330.00

Prop. 41 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm
Lot 8061-D Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00

Prop. 42 – Comm'l Lot LA 1,039 sqm
Lot 8061-E Maharlika Highway, Brgy San Francisco, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Prop. 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 440 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 4 Brgy Mangarin, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00

QUEZON PROVINCE

Prop. 44 – Residential Lot LA 8,477 sqm
Lot 1182-C Along Diversion Road, Brgy Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,148,853.00

Prop. 45 – Residential Lot LA 8,652 sqm
Lot 1183 Along Diversion Road, Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,255,147.00

Prop. 46 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 75 sqm FA 47 sqm
Lot 3-H-1 Rosemarie Compound, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00

Prop. 47 – Residential Lot LA 250 sqm
L1 Blk2 Brgy Gulang-gulang Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 484,524.85

Prop. 48 – Residential Lot LA 180 sqm
L17 Blk3 Brgy Gulang-gulang,LucenaCity
Minimum Bid Price: P 387,619.88

Prop. 49 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 480 sqm FA 592 sqm
Lot 2 & 3 Blk 11 Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,881,000.00

Prop. 50 – Comm'l. Lot LA 5,074 sqm
Lots 2305-B & 2306-A-1-F, Quezon Ave., Brgy. 8, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 14,685,000.00

LUZON

TARLAC

Prop. 51 – Ind'l. Lot LA 14,432 sqm
Lot 1-B Romulo Highway, Brgy. San Juan de Mata & Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,348,000.00

Prop. 52 – Res'l Lot w/ Improvement
LA 712 sqm FA 637 sqm
114 Rose St., Villa Soliman Subd., Brgy. Salapungan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,543,400.00

VISAYAS

AKLAN

Prop. 53 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,518 sqm FA 460 sqm
Lot 2 Cepriano St., Brgy Estancia, Municipality of Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,060,000.00

Prop. 54 - Residential Lot LA 470 sqm
Lot 3435-E Along Road-right-of-way, Brgy. Tigayon, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 198,000.00

Prop. 55 - Agro-Res'l Lot LA 4,668 sqm
Lot 3776 Interior of Brgy. Caticlan, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,156,000.00

WITHDRAWN

Prop. 57 - Residential Lot LA 271 sqm
Lot10 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill. Brgy. New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 271,000.00

Prop. 58 - Residential Lot LA 277sqm
L11 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill, Brgy New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 277,000.00

CAPIZ

WITHDRAWN

Prop. 60 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,500 sqm
Lot 1865-A –1 Along Nat'l Rd (Roxas Ave.) Km. 1, Brgy Lawaan, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,034,000.00

Residential Lot, Bo. Andres Bonifacio, Roxas City
Prop. 61 - Lot 956-B-2-D LA 195 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 56,959.00
Prop. 62 - Lot 956-B-2-E LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 59,588.00
Prop. 63 - Lot 956-B-2-F LA 273 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742.00
Prop. 64 - Lot 956-B-2-G LA 273 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742.00
Prop. 65 - Lot 956-B-2-H LA 219 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 63,969.00

ILOILO

Prop. 66 - Residential Lot LA 5,536 sqm
Lot 934-B –3 Molo Arevalo Blvd., Brgy. Sto. Niño Sur, Arevalo,
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,575,000.00

Prop. 67 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,787 sqm
Lot 2609 Gonzaga St., Purok 14, Poblacion, Pavia
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,674,000.00

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Prop. 68 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 997 sqm FA 250 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 10 corner Kametal Drive & unnamed Subd., Road, Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,917,000.00

Prop. 69 - Comm'l Lot LA 600 sqm
Lot 4-A along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang- Airport, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000.00

Prop. 70 - Comm'l Lot LA 730 sqm
Lot 4-B along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang- Airport,
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,475,000.00

MINDANAO

DAVAO CITY

Prop. 71 - Res'l. Lot LA 600 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 1 Central Park Blvd., Santos Marketing Subd., Bangkal
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,200,000.00

Commercial Lot 8th Ave & Soliman & Leon Garcia Sts., Brgy. Agdao
Prop. 72 - Lot 2-B LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 73 - Lot 2-C LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 74 - Lot 2-D-1 LA 450 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00
Prop. 75 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 5,899 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 47,192,000.00
Prop. 76 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 2,738 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 21,904,000.00

SHOW MONEY P25,000.00 ~ Per Property

AUCTION MANAGER **CENTURY PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT, INC.**

MALU: (0915) 789-6670, SOL: (0910) 306-7444, YOLY: (0921) 780-5979,
CASEY: (0906) 305-1360, MUFFET : (0915) 412-5196

HOTLINE NUMBERS: (02)819-7377, (02)819-7374, (02)811-6234

ALL PROPERTIES ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THE BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ANY PROPERTY BEFORE THE AUCTION. INADVERTENT MISPRINTS SHALL NOT ALTER THE PROPERTY'S FACTUAL CONDITION OR SHALL THEY BE DEEMED AS MISREPRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING.

UCPB

www.ucpb.com

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS BY THE WORLD BANK - REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Impact Evaluation of the KALAHI-CIDSS in the Philippines: Midterm Survey – Quantitative Component

The KALAHI-CIDSS is a project implemented by the Government of the Philippines with financial support from the World Bank. Similar to other Community Driven Development (CDD) projects, KALAHI provides resources for barangays (communities) to choose and design initiatives (subprojects) that they believe would address their most pressing needs. Then, barangays implementing these subprojects gain a sense of ownership over the development initiative. Based on community expression of their perceived needs and the necessary community participation to meet those needs, the approach is appealing.

As part of the need to evaluate KALAHI and its approach, the project carefully implemented a baseline survey in the fall of 2003. The sample for the survey was designed to address the problem of assessing project impact by developing a control group of municipalities not participating in the project with similar characteristics to a sample of KALAHI municipalities.

Given the project's emphasis on social capital, empowerment and governance, both a quantitative and a qualitative survey were implemented. The quantitative survey was fielded in four provinces of the Philippines. In each province, two treatment and two control municipalities were selected. Overall, the sample includes 2,400 households in 132 Barangays. The qualitative sample selected two provinces, with one treatment and one control municipality per province. In each municipality, data was collected in 5 Barangays. All those Barangays were included in the quantitative survey.

The objective of this consultancy will be to go back to the same 2,400 households to collect the quantitative data. Specifically, the consultants will have to:

1. Collect the quantitative data on the same 2,400 households.
2. Input and clean the data.
3. Prepare a final report.

The consultancy will last 4 months from mid-September 2006 to January 2007. Specifically, for comparability with previous round of data collection, the data will have to be collected in October – November 2006.

The World Bank now invites eligible consultancy firms/research institutes to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultancy firms/research institutes with complementary set of skills and experiences are encouraged to express their interest as a consortium.

The consultants will be selected under a Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualification (CQS) method (provision 3.7 in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines for the Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [0900 to 1700 hours Manila Time].

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by September 4, 2006 by 5:00PM Manila Time. Electronic version of the EOI is preferred.

Mr. Andrew Parker
Attention: Ms. Lourdes Anducta
World Bank Office Manila
23/F The Taipan Place, F. Ortigas Jr. Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
The Philippines
Fax: +63 2 637 5870
E-mail: landucta@worldbank.org

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Security Printing of the following Negotiable Instruments:**

Security Check	Quantity	Approved Budget* Source of Fund: DBP Fund	Cost of Bid Documents
Manager's Check	125,000 sets	P 450,000.00	P 500.00
PVAO Pension Check (Continuous Form)	450,000 pieces	P 720,000.00	P 500.00
DECS Checks (Continuous Form)	1,608,322 pieces	P 2,412,483.00	P 1,000.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Mode of Delivery/Payment: Staggered Delivery/Progressive Billing
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	September 7, 2006 (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of September 19, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this activity)	September 19, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Security Checks Printing business for at least three (3) years. Security Check Printer should present sample check items with MICR encoding duly tested and certified to have passed the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) MICR reader sorter.** Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at **www.devbankphil.com.ph** and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on September 7, 2006.**

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 24 & 31, 2006)

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WATCHES JEWELRY DIAMONDS
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NREA exhibits opens today

TO DRAMATIZE A resurgence in the real estate sector of the Philippine economy, some of the country's biggest property developers, urban designers and trade exhibitors will display their latest products and services during the 11th National Convention and Exhibits of the National Real Estate Association Inc (NREA), the one-stop trade organization, on Aug. 24 to 26, 2006 at SM Megatrade Hall 3, EDSA Mandaluyong City.

This was announced by NREA vice president-internal and Exhibits chairman lawyer Axel B. Aguirre who said that these exhibitors will showcase modern innovations, cutting-edge technologies and the latest developments in the realty and allied industries.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:

NREA and Municipality of Godod .. A19
PEZA B3
PSALM ... B10

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that due to some technicalities, the NFA BAC decided to postpone indefinitely the bidding for the sale of the NFA helicopters which was set on September 13, 2006 as published on July 30, 2006 and August 6, 2006.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and
BAC Chair

(PDI–August 24, 2006)

FCMC 6229/2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 6229 OF 2006

BETWEEN

JOSEFINA V. BOQUIREN Petitioner
Also known as WILSON, JOSEFINA BOQUIREN
And
EUGENE WILLIAM WILSON Respondent

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDERMENTIONED EUGENE WILLIAM WILSON, whose address is unknown, may apply at the Family Court Registry at M2, Wanchai Law Court, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong SAR for a copy of the Petition and the accompany documents. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Register

To be advertised as follows :-
Once in Philippine Daily Inquirer

(PDI - August 24, 2006)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PARLANCE SYSTEMS, INC.**, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New IT Export Service Firm in the field of Operation of a Call Center on a Pioneer Status** with project/plant site located at **Libertad corner Arayat Street, Barangay Mauway, Mandaluyong City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax Nos.: (632) 895-3521 (IPG) (632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978 (TSG) (632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph
Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

(PDI - August 24, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GEOGEN-06-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GEOGEN invites interested Private Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services of the following :

SCHEDULE	OFFICE/ INSTALLATION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT	AMOUNT OF BID DOCUMENTS
DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 19, 2006; 10:00 AM				
A	Makban GPP	MAK-06-192	44,208,962.95	10,000.00
B	Makban UPI Posts	MAK-06-212	26,606,969.79	5,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 20, 2006; 10:00 AM				
C	Tiwi GPP	TAF-06-024	39,245,776.68	10,000.00
D	Tiwi UPI Posts	TAF-06-023	20,002,392.17	5,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 21, 2006; 10:00 AM				
E	Bacman GPP	BAC-06-705	25,991,189.13	10,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Makban Science Centrum SEPTEMBER 7, 2006, 10:00 AM

The applicant shall be issued the Eligibility Guidelines and Bid Documents by the BAC or its authorized representative upon submission of the following documents:

a.) Letter of Intent (LOI)
b.) Certificate of Registration from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and/or from Department of Trade and Industry.
c.) Applicant's License to Operate a Security Agency issued by SAGSD, PNP.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee per schedule starting **AUGUST 17, 2006** from the following:

Schedule A & B	Makban -Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division, Bgy Bitin, Bay Laguna.
Schedule C & D	Tiwi – Administration Section, Admin & Finance Division Tiwi, Albay
Schedule E	Bacman – Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division Palayan Bayan, Manito, Albay

No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Makban Science Centrum, Bgy. Bitin, Bay Laguna on the dates and time specified in the written schedule above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Should there be questions on the bid documents, bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the BAC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with *"IRR of Republic Act. 9184"*.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of the following

Cash/Manager's Check/Cashier's Check/Irrevocable Letter of Credit/Bank Draft	1%
Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS	2.5%
Bank Guarantee	1.5%

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

M. A. BALLESTERO
Chairman – BAC, MBGPP

D. C. BUENCONSEJO
Chairman, BAC – TGPP

N. B. BALANE
Chairman, BAC -BMGPP

(PDI--Aug. 17 & 24, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle,
Diliman, Quezon City

Memorandum Circular No. 02
Series of 2006

TO : **ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF RETIRING OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES**

In view of the common concern among retiring government officials/employees who have pending cases before the Office of the Ombudsman that may cause delay in the issuance of an Ombudsman clearance, which is a requisite for their retirement benefits claim, all heads of departments, bureaus and agencies of the national and local governments, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations and state universities and colleges shall, thru their respective Administrative/Personnel/Human Resource Management Officers, submit to the Ombudsman or her Deputies a monthly written schedule of their retiring officials/employees stating their full names, age, last position held and date of retirement.

In order to facilitate the processing of Ombudsman clearance, the retiring officials/employees shall file their application at least three (3) months prior to the effectivity of their retirement properly indorsed by their agency's Administrative/Personnel/Human Resource Management Officers and supported by duly certified service record.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

August 15, 2006.

MA. MERCEDITAS N. GUTIERREZ
Tanodbayan

(PDI – August 24, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
PROPOSED COMPLETION OF METRO NAGA COLISEUM, PHASE V

The *City Government of Naga*, through the ***Proceeds from DBP Loan***, intends to apply the sum of ***TWENTY MILLION (Php 20,000,000.00) PESOS*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the ***Proposed Completion of Metro Naga Coliseum Phase V / Contract Reference Number: 000543-2006-01.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The *City Government of Naga* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for ***the Proposed Completion of Metro Naga Coliseum Phase V.*** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs starting today, ***August 23, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to the BAC Chairman c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO)*** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Five Hundred (Php 500.00) Pesos.*** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on or before ***Wednesday, September 6, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO).*** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents, **in three (3) copies, original, copy 1 & 2**, to the ***BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor City Hall Main Building, City Hall Compound, Naga City on or before Wednesday***, September 6, 2006, ***from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, City Planning & Development Office and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Ten Thousand (Php 10,000.00) Pesos.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12, 2006.***

The City Government of Naga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on Thursday, September 14, 2006, 2:00 PM at the Metro PESO Conference Room, City Hall Compound, Naga City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids, **in three (3) copies, original, copy 1 & 2**, to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning & Development Office on or before ***2:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2006.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash; cashier's or certified check; irrevocable letter of credit; bank guarantee; and, surety bond, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on ***Friday, September 29, 2006 at 2:00 PM, Metro PESO Conference Room, City Hall Compound, Naga City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend at ***2:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2006.***

Completion of the Works is required within ***one hundred eighty (180) calendar days.*** Equipment required welding machine, electric drill, road grader, road roller, concrete mixer and water truck.

The *City Government of Naga* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
MR. FRANK M. MENDOZA
c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office
City Hall Compound, Naga City 4400
Tel. No. (054) 811-6183 / (054) 4732053
Fax No. (054) 811-1286
Email address: bac@nagacity.gov.ph
Website: www.naga.gov.ph

(Sgd.) FRANK M. MENDOZA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2006)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 9213
TIN 000-716-369 V
Tel. No. (077) 784-71-26 / 784-00-82 Local 818
Fax No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites interested bidders for the long term supply of the INEC's electricity and power requirements commencing in the year 2010.

Interested parties shall submit their company profile, duly notarized authorized representative and primary contact person to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Suyo, Dingras 2913
Ilocos Norte

Starting on August 25-31, 2006.

Only those qualified by the Accreditation Committee shall be invited to BID.

(Sgd.) ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager

(PDI – August 23 & 24, 2006)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

We are in need of a **Graphic Artist**

- 25-35 years old
- Expert in ADOBE photoshop, knowledgeable in Corel Draw on PC/iMAC
- At least two years of experience in advertising collateral layout
- Willing to work with short lead time and minimal supervision

Please e-mail your resumé to linagalang@kudosinternational.net
Prepare a portfolio of past projects for interview

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OBITUARIES

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

We Love You...
We Miss You...
Will Forever Remember You

KATHRINA KAE CERVANTES-VERDOTE

April 30, 1990 – August 24, 2005

Holy Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Sto. Rosario Parish – *Ortigas, Pasig*	6:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish – *Greenhills, San Juan*	7:00 a.m.
Santisimo Rosario Parish Church – *UST*	5:15 p.m.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – *Cardinal Santos*	5:15 p.m.
Santuario del Sto. Cristo – *Blumentritt, San Juan*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose – *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:15 p.m.

We, the members of Kat-Kat's family, request all her loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers on the occasion of her 1st death anniversary.

Nanay we want you to know that
we are all together loving you.
So Sadly Missed and Lovingly Remembered
on her Twenty-First Death Anniversary

PURIFICACION CONJARES DE JESUS

(Lucena City)
BEST MOTHER
June 11, 1911 – August 24, 1985

Her children: **LILIA & BENHUR, CLODUALDO & CAROLINA, MA. TERESA & RICARDO**, grandchildren: **NINGNING & ALFRED, CLAUDE & OLIVE, TOTI, OLIVER, LORALIE & FLORIO** and great grandchildren: **MICKEY, MARTY** and **REDD**, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Masses will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church at Cordillera St., Q.C. and Holy Redeemer Church at 6:00 A.M.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Erlinda Q. Agustin

February 28, 1939 - August 12, 2006

her husband **ARSENIO**; children **ARLYNE, ENGELBERT, ALICE LYN**, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, in-laws, nieces & nephews wish to thank all those who offered prayers and masses, sent flowers, extended assistance, financial assistance and condoled with us during a most trying moment.

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS

Our Dearly Beloved

DANTE "JOJO" O. CORTINA, JR.

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 19, 2006 at the age of 39.

His parents **Dante & Evangeline**; brothers **Danny, Dennis, Dino** and **Davis**; sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 26, 2006 at the St. Peter Eternal Garden, Pililla, Rizal after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

Message of Thanks

From the Family of the Late

EUGENIO K. HERNANDO

We thank you most sincerely
for being with us
as we said
our final farewell to Iñing.

He was a good man.
We will miss him.

Your expressions of sympathy
were greatly appreciated.
God bless you for your kindness.

Please join us
in remembering Iñing
in prayer.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God.
-- Wisdom 3:1

BUSINESS

Auto makers' position on biofuels bill hit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE FUEL ETHANOL Alliance on Wednesday criticized local auto makers for "obstructing and delaying the passage of the biofuels bill by presenting baseless claims" that cast doubt on the economic viability of the use of fuel blends containing plant-based additives.

PFEA groups government and private sector backers of the large-scale use of biofuels, including the Philippine Sugar Millers Association, Sugar Masterplan Foundation (representing planters), the Sugar Regulatory Administration, Center for Alcohol Research and Development and Petron Corp.

The group said in a statement that the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.'s bases for opposing ethanol were erroneous and misleading.

Campi president Elizabeth H. Lee, however, clarified that the assemblers were not opposing the use of biofuels like bioethanol—a blend of gasoline and ethanol from crops such as sugar and corn. What the group was opposing, Lee said, was the blanket mandate that required the large-scale use of biofuels since not all types of vehicles were compatible with such fuels.

Also, Lee said Campi was concerned about the time frame for the implementation of a biofuels law considering that domestic production might not be able to meet the large-scale demand that might arise from a mandated use of biofuels.

She said that if local supply would not suffice, importation of ethanol would defeat the aim of stimulating domestic production and might result in the government footing subsidies.

At the same time, Campi said there should be a price gap between bioethanol and pure gasoline to make the shift to biofuels more meaningful for motorists since the former packed only two-thirds of the latter's power, resulting in less mileage.

PFEA yesterday said it completed in 2005 a study which found that ethanol production and use would help achieve energy security, environmental quality, employment in the countryside, and economic progress.

"What Campi obviously wants is to simply obstruct and delay the passage of the biofuels bill by presenting baseless claims."

"The short-term goal is to find a cheaper alternative to gasoline," the group said. "But the long-term goal is to be capable to locally produce an alternative to gasoline."

More than its lower price, ethanol would insulate the country from the volatility of world oil prices, the PFEA added.

"Campi should be supportive of these developmental goals. Their opposition to ethanol clearly shows that they are willing to sacrifice national interest in favor of their own," it said.

"Car firms in many countries openly support ethanol," PFEA said. "

MRL seeks permit to explore new mines

By Christine A. Gaylican

CANADIAN MINING SUBSIDIARY MRL Gold Philippines Inc. and its partners are seeking permits to explore new mining areas in Agusan del Norte Surigao del Norte, documents showed.

MRL Gold Philippines Inc. president James Anthony Climie, in a petition sent to Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes, said the company wanted to explore 508.12 hectares of mineral land in Malimono, Surigao for gold and copper.

Also, Buena Suerte Mining Corp., an affiliate of Australia's Oxiana Ltd., has signified interest in exploring 4,192 hectares of mineral land in Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo in Southern Leyte for possible copper and gold resources.

Manila Mining Corp. is also applying for a permit to explore some 2, 463 hectares in the towns of Tubod, Bacuag, Manit, Sison and Placer in Surigao del Norte also for copper and gold.

Other mining companies that have filed applications for mining permits were Egerton Gold Philippines Inc., Colossal Mining Corp. and Bunawan Mining Corp.

In a related development, 10 medium-scale mining companies are applying for Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) to extract nickel, chromite, limestone and cobalt, documents showed.

These are Cagdianao Mining Corp. and its partner; Norweah Metals and Minerals Inc. Kimhee Realty Corp.; TMC International Corp.; Fastem Construction Inc.; Itawes Mining Exploration Co.; Hard Rock Mineral Trading Inc., and Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp.

PSALM POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR THE **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF PARTITIONS, FURNITURE, VOICE, DATA AND AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT, FLOORING AND RELATED CIVIL/ELECTRICAL/PAINTING AND OTHER WORKS OR SERVICES FOR PSALM'S OFFICE AT 6TH FLOOR BANKMER BUILDING, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.**

1. PSALM, through its 2005 Re-enacted Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of **FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT PESOS AND 99/100** (Php4,356,668.99) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PROCURING ENTITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF PARTITIONS, FURNITURE, VOICE, DATA AND AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT, FLOORING AND RELATED CIVIL/ELECTRICAL/PAINTING AND OTHER WORKS OR SERVICES FOR PSALM'S OFFICE AT 6TH FLOOR BANKMER BUILDING, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB.** The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCURING ENTITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00AM-5:00PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00), either in cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PROCURING ENTITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 25 August 2006 at 10:00AM at the 6F Bankmer Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 6 September 2006 *2:00PM.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or, irrevocable letter of credit, equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 6 September 2006 at 2:15PM at the 6/F Bankmer Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The PROCURING ENTITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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MR. FROILAN A. TAMPINCO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
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(PDI—August 17 & 24, 2006)

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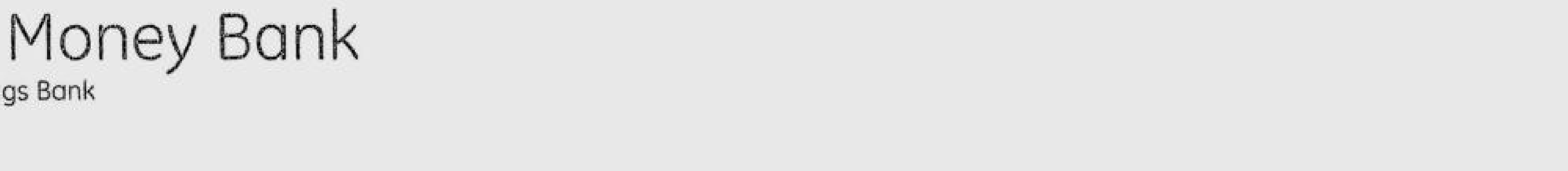

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Sweet surprises

SOME OF LIFE'S MOST PRECIOUS SURPRISES come in little packages! Diamonds, rubies, sapphires and Roshan's Chocolate Cupcakes!

Good old-fashioned chocolate cake done well is good enough for me but this one is filled with sinful centers of thickened custard! And not just a dab but oozing with it!

The minute I saw the cupcakes during an Iron Chef-themed shower that the Tolentino sisters, Camille and Mireille, threw for their sister Giselle at my school, I knew that not only were they made with the finest ingredients but with much love and patience as well! I am even surprised that it is so reasonable, considering the amount of tedious work that goes into making each one of them!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

The icing on the cupcakes, aside from being delicious, was perfectly piped, the cake moist and the filling sinfully gooey and rich. She even added a sprinkling of sugar dots for that colorful festive touch. Everyone moaned and groaned at its decadence.

I had to order and let my family try it. To my surprise, she has a mega list of sweets, among which I was fortunate enough to savor Food for the Gods. Excellent! It seemed to me like a bar made with date paste, butter, eggs, huge chunks of walnuts and, somewhere along the way, a bit of flour. It just melts in your mouth that you wonder if it was even baked at all! It was perfect with my cup of coffee! But now that I think about it, perhaps I would have been better off taking them with Lipitor or Zenacal! I also tried her chocolate chip cookies and they were equally good. They were huge, chewy and simply yummy.

The sinful treats depict Roshan's devotion to her craft. So evident is it that everything she bakes seems to be stamped with perfection! She says, "My baking setup is really simple—no professional equipment at all, just a lot of top notch ingredients and a lot of TLC!" To me, it's the TLC that spells the difference!

Contact Roshan Samtani at 0917-8336286. She has Christmas gift packages, too!

Rice varieties

Can you please explain the different kinds of rice and why must we use one kind of rice specifically for just one purpose. Can't I use just one kind for risotto and paella? What is the best rice to use for paella?

WEENA TAN

Rice is a many splendored thing. There are over 7,000 varieties of them. In the case of rice for paella and risotto, strictly speaking, they are not one and the same, though both are short grains.

Arborio and other risotto rice types are high-starch grains, shorter and fatter than many other short grain types, the reason the rice becomes creamy in texture, which is what a risotto should be.

While paella works well with many short fat grain varieties, the best ones to use are Calasparra, grown in the mountains of the Province of Murcia in Spain and the ultimate Arroz Bomba, a grain so tedious to grow that farmers thought of ceasing its production. Thanks to the demand, the production of the supreme paella grain continues to thrive in Calasparra, Murcia. But good things come at a price—it's about $13 a kilo.

This is because these grains take about 30 percent longer to grow than the average rice types, dehydrating them in the process, allowing the grains to absorb more liquid/flavor during the cooking process; in the case of Bomba, up to three times more, expanding horizontally rather than vertically, resulting in paella that is plump and flavorful yet leaving the grains distinctly whole.

Simply put, the type of rice used is totally dependent on the dish and the final result that one wishes to attain.

Rice grains are generally classified by size: long, medium and short. Long-grain's length is four to five times its width. When cooked, it produces light, dry grains that separate easily, a perfect example of which is the Indian Basmati. Short-grain rice are fat and round, high in starch content. When cooked, sticks together and stays moist. Arborio, Bomba, Japanese are examples. Medium-grain rice is in-between long and short, both in size and in character. When cooked, it becomes shorter and moister than long-grain yet generally not as starchy as short-grain.

The two most common rice types are white or polished rice, which has had the germ, husk and bran removed and therefore keeps almost indefinitely, and brown rice, which has only the outer husk removed, making it far more nutritious/higher in fiber than the polished kind. The bran gives brown rice its color. But because of the bran and since the grains are not thoroughly processed, brown rice is best consumed six months at most from its date of purchase. Brown rice is chewy and has a somewhat nutty flavor.

Rice is best stored in a cool and dry place in airtight containers.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

ROSHAN'S Surprise Cupcakes (left) and Food for the Supreme Gods

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

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Asian Fusion: Sept. 2 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Smoked Salmon layered on fried dumpling wrapper canapes; Grilled Pork Ribs Basted with Sweet Tamarind Barbeque Sauce; Grilled marinated beef salad tossed in cooked vermicelli & citrus wedges; Grilled Asian Chicken breast in pesto sauce serve with tomato based pasta; Grilled Pepper Steak with Leek Potato Gratin; Lemon Grass Coconut Creme Brulee & Homemade Wasabi Mint Ice Cream. Free Oriental Cookbook. P1,000.
Pasta Classics: Sept. 9 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Pasta Primavera in white sauce, Ravioli with three (3) kinds of stuffings (Chicken, Pork & Beef), Rigatoni el Nero, Spaghetti Pescatora (Spaghetti in seafood sauce), Aglio Oglio, Puttanesca Penne. Bonus: Homemade Pasta Making with workshop. P900.
Bartender Basic: Sept. 16 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Basic Tools, Classifications of Wine & Spirits. Types of Bar Glasses & Usage, Mixing of Cocktail Drinks. Garnishing with wine tasting. P1,000.
Coffee Basic 101 (Barista Course): Sept. 23 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Coverage: Coffee history, coffee process, Trouble shooting, coffee blend, machine know-how-proper grinding. Techniques to perfect froth. Actual preparation of popular Traditional Hot Coffee Concoction: Espresso doppio, Cappuccino, Latte Macchiatto; Cold Coffee Concoction: Millennium Kahlua, Milano mocca & Mocca spin. Bonus: Strawberry Spin with coffee tasting and snacks. P1,000.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrollment, pre-registration required)
Basic Culinary: Aug. 29 - Sept. 1/Sept. 12 - 15 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation & safety; nutrition & nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs & spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing & boning poultry, filleting fish & meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry & meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free cookbook. P5,000.
Fundamentals of Bakery Production: Sept. 5 - 8 / Sept. 19 - 22 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Baking techniques of preparing ready mixes, yeast breads, quick breads, pies, cookies & cakes. P4,000.
Advanced Cooking: Sept. 5 - 7 (T-Th) / Sept. 19 - 20 & 22 (T-W & F) 1-6 p.m. Setting up a system for food safety (HACCP). The art of seasoning & flavoring using herbs & spices, grand sauces & flavors, menu forms & functions, recipe formulation / menu development (dry & frozen food storage), purchasing & portion procedures, standard serving portions, average % cost for trimmings & cooking of vegetables, fruit, shellfish & meat; costing, metric conversion factors, demonstration of the preparation of herbs based dressing, marinade, wet & dry rub. Sauces, including international entrees & desserts. P5,000.
Home Bakery Business: Sept. 9, 16 & 23 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Equipments, formulations using baker's percentage (%), batching, actual preparation of pandesal, ensaymada, mongo bread, banana bread, brownies, doughnuts and pizza, Including costing. P2,500.
Catering Seminar: Sept. 13 - 15 (W-F 2 - 6 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering business, facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of Stuffed Chicken Thighs, Vegetable Samosa, Honey Garlic Ribs & Wings, Eggplant Skordalia, Quiche Lorraine & Special Gulaman Desserts. P3,000 with free catering cookbook.

Free Baking Demo: Sept. 29 (Friday) 4-5 p.m. Baking Business Product application with Maya Mixes, Blackforest, Carrot Cake, Butterscotch Cookies and Waffledog. Includes lecture on Sales & Profit Analysis. Pre-registration required. (Present 3 empty packages of any Maya Hotcake or Cake Mixes)

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

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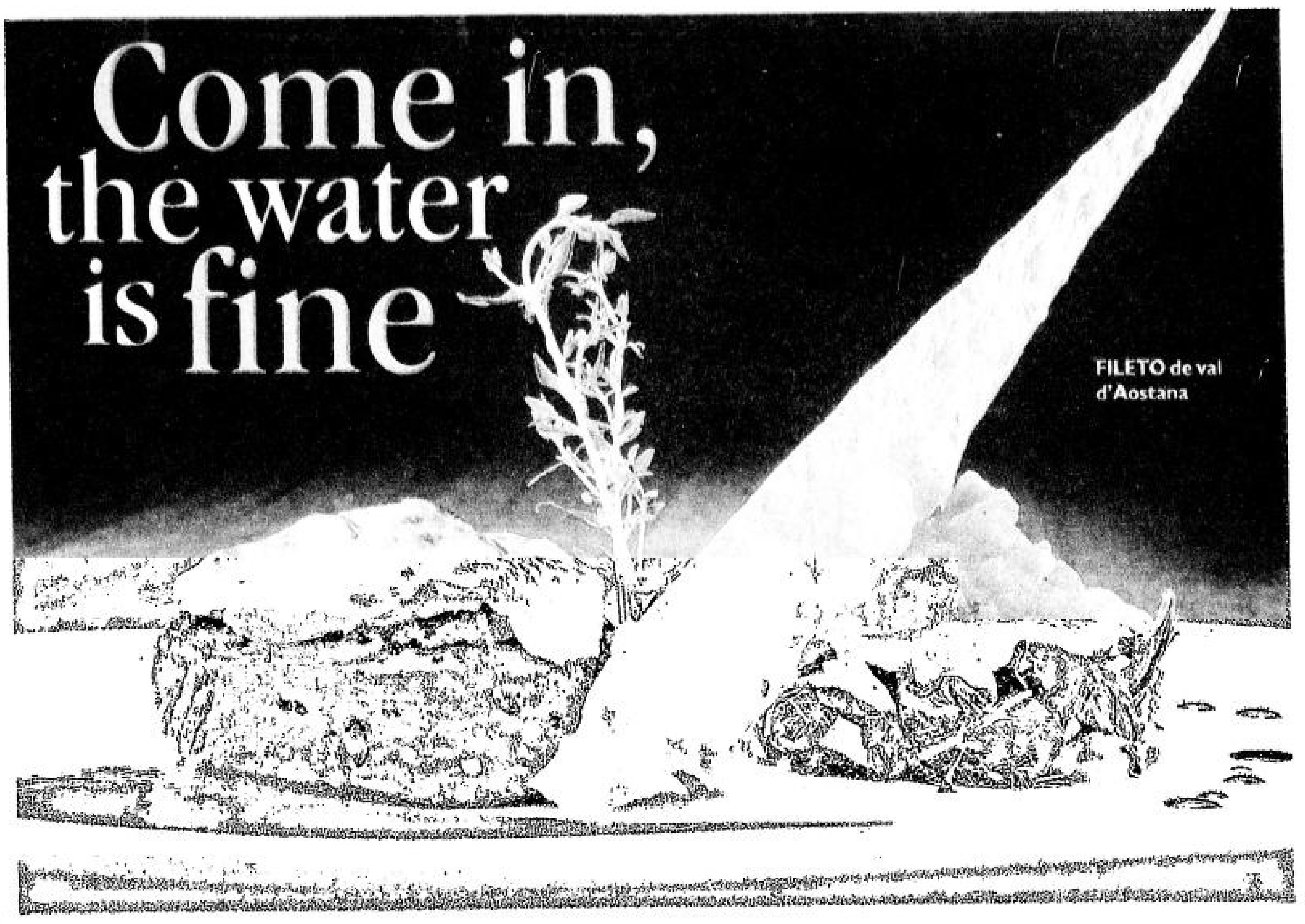
BIGNE al Caffe

Come in, the water is fine


FILETO de val d'Aostana

By Alex Y. Vergara

> Acqua, the new Italian restaurant at Shangri-La Mactan that overlooks the pool and the clear blue sea, is sure to please seafood lovers

SHANGRI-LA MACTAN RECENTLY launched Acqua, the newest addition to its list of fine-dining outlets that not only capitalizes on the award-winning hotel's resort environment, but also directly addresses its ever-changing clientele.

After undergoing several months of renovation, the hotel's Ocean Wing was finally completed with the formal opening of its Italian restaurant three weeks ago.

Acqua, Italian for water, replaced Paparazzi. Sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario designed its bright and spacious interiors. To make the most of the outlet's resort ambiance, the sisters used plenty of glass panels and white leather chairs and sofas to allow the sunshine in and reflect the light.

Most of Cebu's movers and shakers joined the lunchtime party that gave a sampling of Acqua's menu and showcased Australian opera singers Tania Jong, Dominique Oyston and Jonathan Morton.

The performance soon segued into an auction of items donated by bag designer JM Lhuillier, Tiffany & Co. (through Rustan's), Bacchus, Cebu Intertrade and Treats & Treasures. The auction was for the benefit of such organizations as Care for Children and Batang Opon.

Ideal setting

In keeping with its name, Acqua opens up to an infinity pool (distinct from the hotel's bigger main pool) and the clear, blue sea beyond. The pool proved to be the ideal setting for female members of the Philippine swimming team (known collectively as Synchro Swans) to show off their synchronized dance moves in the water.

Acqua is the first of its kind in the hotel chain, says Stephan Kapek. The Shangri-La Mactan is basically a resort hotel, while all other Shangri-La properties with Italian restaurants are based in big, bustling cities.

They felt the need to introduce certain innovations two years ago, when the hotel's clientele started to change. American and European guests are no longer the hotel's main sources of revenue. Asians, particularly Koreans, now make up the bulk of its customers.

Different

"Most Caucasians love to eat outdoors," says Kapek. "Most Asians, however, prefer to eat in an air-conditioned setting."

The open-air dividers of what used to be the Paparazzi restaurant were replaced with glass panels to keep the cold air in. The use of glass panels also allowed Acqua's designers to add more floor space to the new establishment, as well as section off certain areas for semi-private functions.

Among the features Kapek and his team retained from the old restaurant are the outdoor pizza counter with a wood-fired oven (reportedly the first of its kind in Cebu) and enough space for al-fresco dining.

The changes are far from superficial, he insists. Since the hotel's Ocean Wing is designed as an entity in itself, Acqua has the task of serving guests Italian-style buffet breakfast.

Lunch and dinner are served a la carte daily. But, as a treat to guests and walk-in clients, Acqua serves dinner and lunch buffets on Wednesdays and Sundays, respectively.

Executive chef Marco Anzani, a true-blue Italian, brought best-selling dishes from Paparazzi and added new ones on Acqua's menu.

The restaurant's signature dishes include Selezione di Antipasti (a selection of Italian cold cuts, seafood, cheeses and marinated vegetables), Calzone (folded pizza with cooked ham, mushrooms, bell pepper and Bel Paese cheese) and Scaloppine al Funghetto (braised veal escalope on asparagus with parsley mushroom sauce).

Seafood treats

Instead of highlighting a particular region in Italy, Anzani and his staff chose to enhance Acqua's seafood offerings. After all, what's the use of naming a place after water if you don't have a formidable lineup of bounties from the sea?

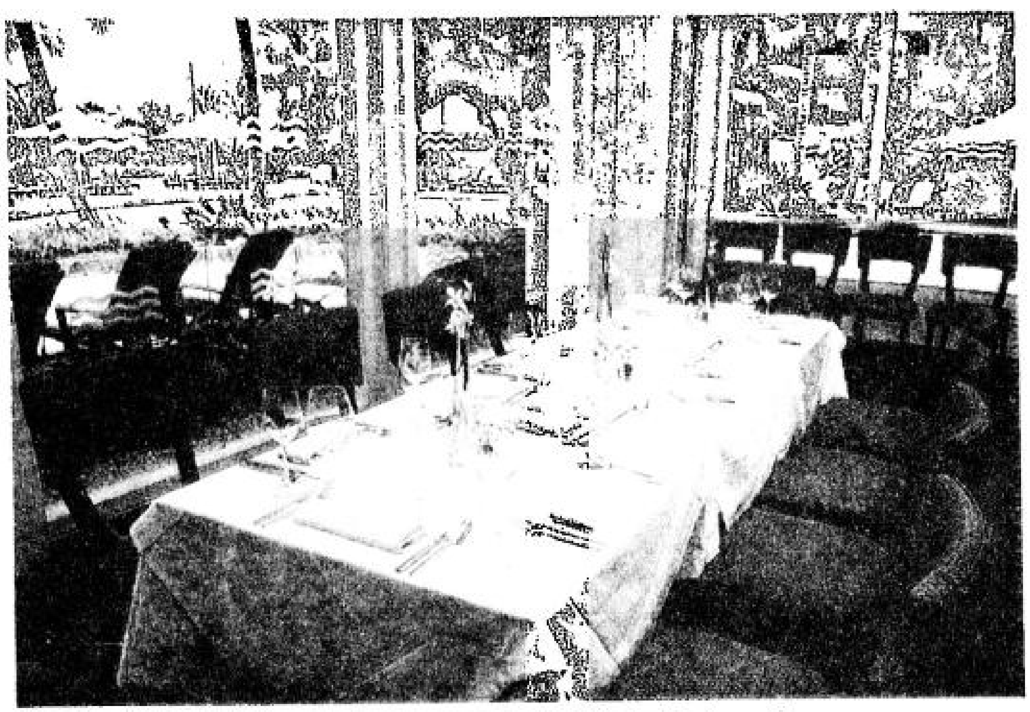
Seafood lovers can now feast on such dishes as Tortelli di Pesce (pasta pockets filled with fish served on Soave white wine sauce), Aragosta e Zafferno (saffron rice with lobster and cherry tomato) and Branzino al Forno (herb-encrusted fillet of Chilean sea bass on mashed potato with shrimp, green beans and cherry tomato), to name a few.

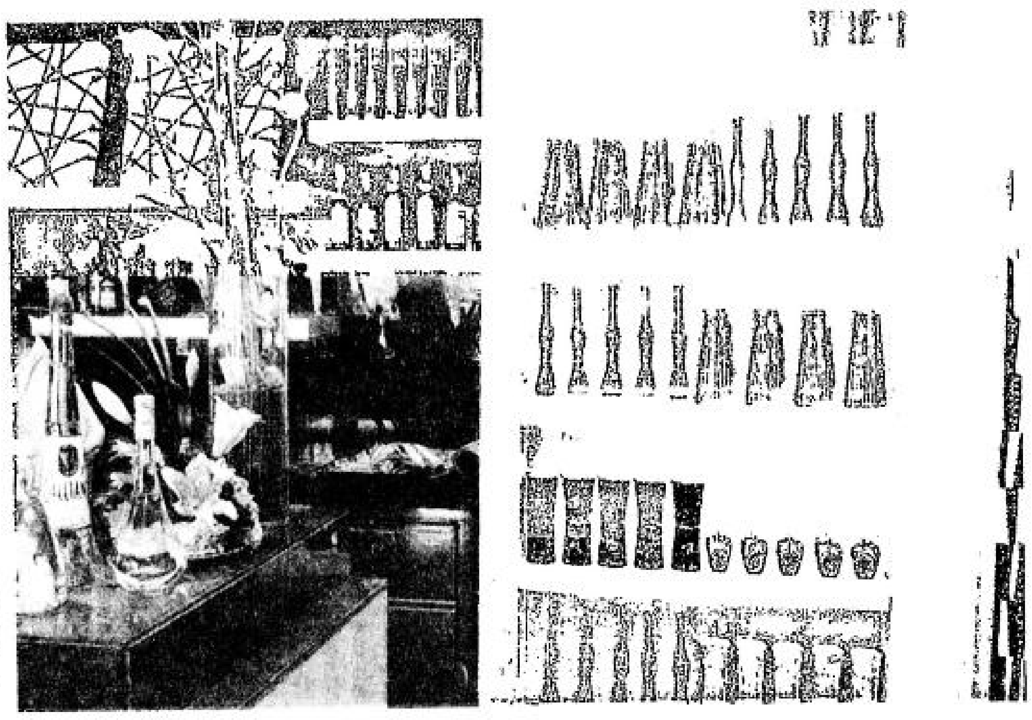
Acqua also prides itself in using authentic and premium ingredients, as much as possible. You may spend less going to an obscure Italian restaurant in Cebu City, says Kapek, but, for the genuine article, you have to dine in Acqua.

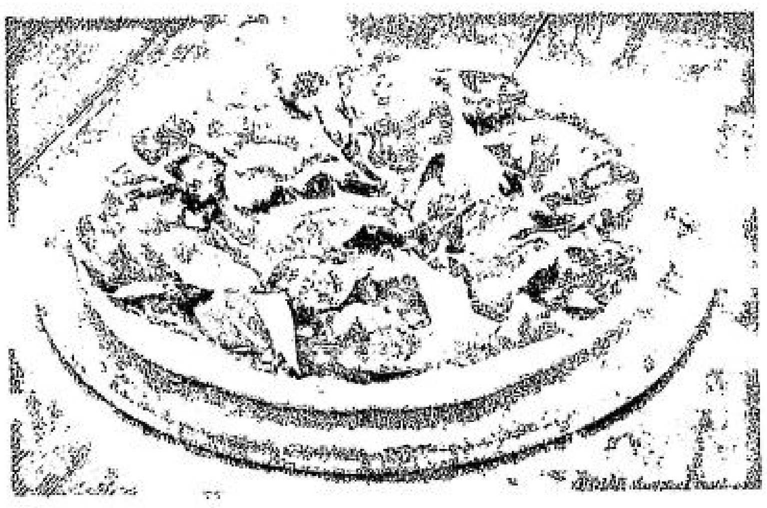
Acqua's ingredients—from Parma ham to mozzarella cheese, virgin olive oil to balsamic vinegar—all come regularly from various parts of Italy. Even the pasta, is sourced directly from the Mediterranean country.

"Authenticity is really the key that separates us from the rest," says Kapek. That and Acqua's seaside ambiance, which is far removed from the hot and crowded city.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph.


VIEW from one of Acqua's dining areas is the Ocean Wing's infinity pool.


COLORED bottles add zing to the predominantly white interior.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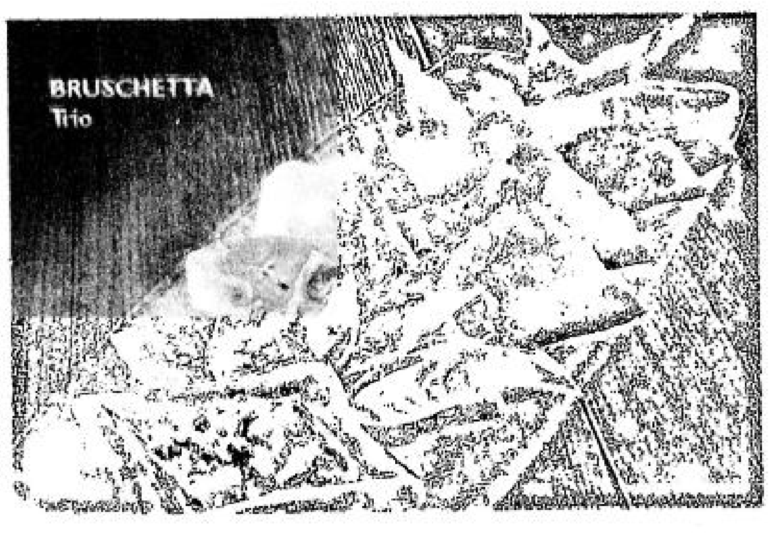

BRUSCHETTA Trio

Authentic Italian cooking

San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center holds a special cooking demonstration on authentic Italian Cuisine 1:30-4:30 p.m., Aug. 30, at Legazpi corner Eagle Steets, Ugong, Pasig City. Featured is chef Tiziano Cavallini of Caffe Milano Ristorante Pizzeria. Fee is P800. My Great Food Club members get a 20-percent discount. Call 6322000, 6719876 local 402 and 2771. Log on to www.mygreatfood.com

Cheese and cookies

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Aug. 25: "Mozzarella '06" (all new)—Antipasti Platter with Marinated Mozzarella, Fried Mozzarella with Mushroom Sauce, Pasta Torte and Mozzarella Salad, Brined Stuffed Chops with Mozzarella and Prosciutto with Pomodoro Risotto, Mozzarella Garlic Chicken with Garlic Muffins.

Aug. 26: "Cookie Jar '06" (all new)—Four of my favorite chocolate chip cookie recipes, Melt-in-Your-Mouth Pecan, Old-Fashioned Sugar Cookies, Macadamia Cookies, Two of my favorite biscottis

Aug. 28: "My Favorite Balinese and Indo Specialties" (all new)—Gado-Gado Salad (Tofu Salad with Peanut Sauce), Stir- fry Satay Noodles, Guling Celing (Balinese-style Lechon Marinated in Shrimp Paste and Lime Leaves), Seafood Satay, Nasi Goreng, Indonesian-Style Halo-Halo

Aug. 30: "Easy Fresh Pasta '06" (all new)—Caesar Salad With Homemade Parmesan Ravioli, Homemade Spinach Ravioli Lasagna, Boursin Fettucine, Spicy Shrimp Fettucine, Pasta with Prosciutto and Truffles, Black Pasta with Scallops. Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162.

Master vintners at wine festival

MORE THAN 100 WINES WILL BE poured during Toast 2006: The Wine Festival, Aug. 25-26, at The Power Plant's Rockwell Tent.

The annual event, presented by WineDepot and Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Corporation, showcases 20 world-renowned wineries from seven countries and features six wine masters.

On Aug. 25, activities include "Zinomania: The Ravenswood Ultimate Survival Class," 2-3 p.m., conducted by Angus Lilley, who will uncork five Ravenswood Vineyard Designated Zinfandels.

In "Sparkling Afternoon," 4-5 p.m., wine master Rebecca Hopkins discusses sparkling wines. Featured are Arras premium Tasmanian sparkling wines paired with caviar.

Kilikanoon Masterclass to be conducted by winemaker Kevin Mitchell, 4:30-5 p.m., will showcase Shiraz.

At 3:30-5 p.m. is "Nobilo and Oysters" with Oyster Bar Rockwell, featuring Marlborough Sauvignon Blancs from Nobilo and Selaks and fresh oysters. Another "Nobilo and Oysters" will be held 3-5 p.m., Aug. 26.

The World Icon Wines Masterclass will showcase 15 "iconic" wines.

At 7 p.m., WineDepot launches its newest wine brand, Bellagio.

On Aug. 26, "Birth of an Icon," 12:30-2 p.m., features Banfi's Poggio Alle Mura.

At the "Reconstruction of Southern Rhone Style Wine" masterclass, 2-3 p.m., Craig Stanborough will present Grant Burge Wines' Holy Trinity, the Grenache Shiraz and Mourvedre, and recreate the Southern Rhone Style.

The Torbreck Masterclass, 4-5 p.m., will include wines from 100-year-old Shiraz vines.

Capping Toast 2006 is the black-tie Wine Gala Dinner and Auction on Aug. 26 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The auction will benefit the Springboard Foundation, a nonprofit organization helping Filipino children.

Media partner for the wine festival is The Lifestyle Network.

Log on to winedepot.com.ph, call 8894889 or visit their showrooms on Yakal Street in Makati, at West Gate Alabang and Ortigas Town Center along Doña Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig City.

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot is briefed on Blackstone wines by a representative of Wine Depot during a wine tasting at the Philippine Daily Inquirer offices.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Noodle tales from Malabon to Marilao

THE BEST THING ABOUT food research is not the eating. It's discovering something new about dishes you take for granted because you eat and maybe even cook them.

And since I rarely research alone, the company of friends and knowledgeable guides also make every trip an excursion rather than a fact-finding mission.

Let me tell you about two of my *pancit* trips.

I went to Malabon first accompanied by two friends, one of whom, Inday Pascual, is from there.

KA Yoying Nagbalon and her Marilao Pancit Palabok

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

The first thing I learned from her was not about noodles but about the tides. It's best, Inday said, to go to this coastal town when the tide was low so we wouldn't encounter any flooding that might cause the car to stall.

She showed me a calendar given by an oil company that plotted the tides all year round.

All 'original'

It is said that every good invention has many mothers. And so it wasn't surprising to see several *pancit* Malabon eateries declaring themselves as the "original." We ate at almost every *pancitan*, noting sauces or the *palabok* and the *sahog*, the extras placed with the sauce such as shrimps and egg slices. And, of course, the noodle used, mainly the thick rice sticks that has a bit more bite.

My sister-in-law, a Concepcion from Malabon, regrets the closing of the remaining noodle factory there. She said the rice was ground into flour in a huge stone grinder (*gilingan*). She would have wanted to buy that already antique equipment if only she had the space for it.

Inday provided me with some history when she described the old way of preparing *pancit* Malabon. She said it had no *palabok*, just the *sahog* cooked in oil rendered from pork fat and colored reddish with annatto (*achuete*).

When you research, the other thing to ask is how the food is eaten. For the old-style *pancit* Malabon, Inday said the container was always a small bowl called *mangkok*, the kind the Chinese used for rice. For utensils, bamboo sticks called *sipit* were used.

And, like most Filipino food, the *pancit* had a side dish. It was the *balubad*, the fruit of the *casuy*. For those like me who haven't tasted the *balubad*, the fruit is a beautiful attractive yellow that belies its tart taste. That very tartness, Inday said, was perfect for the richness of the *pancit* Malabon.

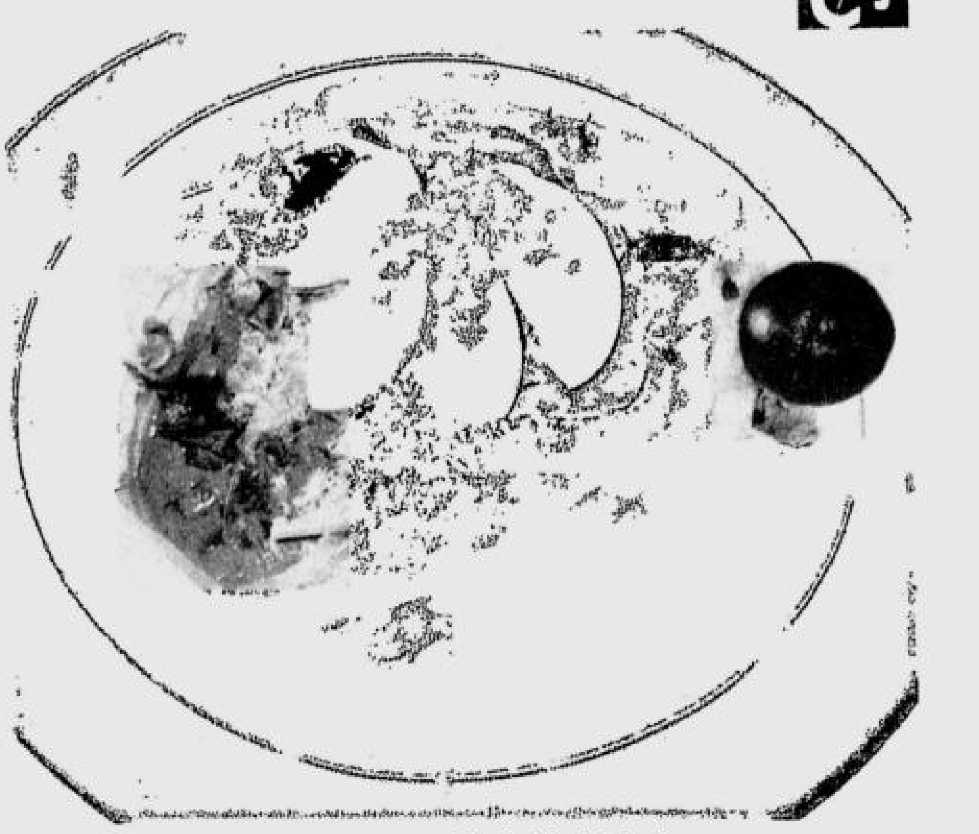
Pancit Luglug

The *pancit* Malabon is known elsewhere as *pancit luglug* (referring to the act of rehydrating the rice noodle sticks by dipping them several times in a bowl of water) or *pancit palabok*. Two versions of the *palabok* were tried in Bulacan.

While the basic sauce has some flavoring from either broth or shrimp juice thickened with flour or egg and colored by annatto, Nena's Pancit Palabok adds more impact to the flavor, and probably also to the arteries, by mixing in pig's brain. The oil on top of the sauce in the pot was proof of that richness.

Nena's *pancit* assembly involved only the sauce, some cut green onions and wedges of hard-boiled eggs. Ka Yoying's Palabok in Marilao, on the other hand, was more complex.

We were led into the kitchen by Yoying Nagbalon, a privilege a food researcher enjoys. Yes, some things remained secret and that day, we weren't shown what went into the sauce.



NENA'S Pancit Palabok with a sauce enriched with pig's brain

Nonetheless, we were shown the way the *pancit* was assembled. And, from what I saw that day, that information was more important.

Nagbalon started with boiled *bihon*, those thinner white noodles. Then she added ground black pepper, fried garlic, shrimps that had been fried, colored with annatto and then ground. The *palabok* sauce was poured over all that then topped with shredded *tinapa*.

Liquid fat

We thought that was it. Then Nagbalon brought in another layer of *bihon* that she put on top of the first layer. The next step in the assembly line made us all gasp—liquid fat poured on top of all that.

Then, the flavorings were added—*patis*, *calamansi* juice and pepper. The final topping was called *chicharong bigas*, rice fried in sheets then cracked into small pieces. Nagbalon said the cracker was available in the province.

Like the *pancit* Malabon that is traditionally eaten with *balubad* and then later with *camachile* cookies (a butter cookie shaped like the fruit), Yoying's *palabok* is paired with another cookie called *binanle*. These are square sort of crackers that look like *jacobina*, that multi-layered cookie cube, but wasn't.

We tried to appreciate the pairing but we couldn't figure out what the *binanle* did for the *palabok*. We just theorized that the cookie might help eliminate all that fat we just had. Anything to excuse the eating.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Network reminds consumers when to take their medicine

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

WHETHER IT IS THE BIRTH CONtrol pill or the mix of daily medication for the treatment of tuberculosis, under the regimen DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-source) recommended by the World Health Organization, sticking to the schedule is crucial if optimum results are to be achieved.

Skipping the pill or DOTS for even a single day can undo all the protection and therapeutic benefits that had already been achieved.

But, as medical people know, getting people to follow strictly schedules for taking medicine is hard. The business of living often creates distractions that make it easy to forget things, no matter how important. Jobs, home and family, crises big and small can cause disruptions to a person's daily routine.

Experts know this and researches have focused on how to make it easier for people to follow schedules without much effort. Hence, the injectable birth control and implants that women can forget until several weeks later.

As for DOTS, communities are getting involved. In several *barangay* in Metro Manila, volunteers are helping patients stay the course through regular visits, distributing the needed mix of drugs daily (if patients are close enough) or weekly.

Now Roche (Philippines) Inc. has taken it upon itself to remind users of its new anti-osteoporosis formulation, the once-monthly ibandronic acid (commercial name Bonviva), when it is time for the next dosage.

Joe Marie L. Sy says data show that failure to use the product regularly and continuously can undo whatever protection against osteoporosis (brittle bones) the drug offers.

Osteoporosis, usually a problem faced by women in the menopausal stage and even other women and men deficient in the mineral calcium, makes people more vulnerable to fractures that are not only debilitating but may also be fatal.

Though the once-monthly drug was formulated precisely to make it easier for osteo sufferers to stick to their treatment regimen (research showed people tended to skip daily or weekly medication), remembering to take something every month may just be as difficult.

So what Roche has come up with, through its BonDiva Women's Campaign for Bone Health, an exclusive patient support program with former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz as endorser, is to set up a system where users need not worry about remembering when their next dose is due.

Osteoporosis sufferers prescribed ibandronic acid will be given by their physicians a form to fill up. Every pack of Bon Viva also comes with the form.

All patients have to do is send the accomplished form to Roche and a few days before their next dose of Bonviva is due they will get a call, a text or an e-mail from the drug company reminding them it is time to buy their medication.

Roche also conducts orientation seminars in offices and communities to inform people about osteoporosis and why it should not be taken lightly.

The initiative may seem self-serving. After all, by being a part of the network you more or less commit yourself to patronizing ibandronic acid. But in these hectic times, when people have so many things to worry about, being rid of this one, but very important obligation, is certainly welcome.

Sy says, so far, the BonDiva network has 1,500 members all over the country. Roche has conducted its seminars in Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, Cebu and Davao so far.

If you want to know more about ibandronic acid and the BonDiva network, and/or if you want Roche to conduct seminars in your communities, call the hotline 8971234 or log on to www.bondiva.com.ph.

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —**Editor**

Learn to bake, cook French, Italian, Thai and Chinese food from Chef Ernest Reynoso-Gala

PLANNING to go into the food business or do you just want to learn how to bake French cakes, pastries and cookies? Do you want to surprise your husband and other family members with French, Italian, Thai or Chinese dishes for dinner?

You can learn all this and more at the Sylvia Reynoso Gala Culinary Arts Studio. Owned and run by culinary expert Sylvia Reynoso together with her children Morella and Ernest, and Leni Reynoso-Araullo the culinary school's goal is to teach as many money making courses as possible. Reynoso Gala firmly believes that peace in the Philippines will only come with economic prosperity.

Ernest Reynoso Gala, who recently graduated from the Italian Institute for advanced culinary & pastry arts under Chef Director John Nocita, Soverato, Calebria, Italy, from le Moulin de Mougins Alain Llorca, Cannes, France, from Ecole Ritz Escoffier,Paris Ritz Hotel, France, from Ecole Lenotre Patisserie, Plaisir Cedex, France and has a Full Course diploma from The Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, will be conducting a course on 7 New Special Coffee Shop Cookies on August 24, Practical, Easy, Delicious Not Spicy Thai Cooking I and a course on Max style and Jollibee style fried chicken on August 25 and August 26, 2006 respectively. Sylvia Reynoso Gala, on the other hand, will be conducting a course on Chinese Cooking: Savory Style Fried Chicken on August 23, 2006

Ernest will also be conducting courses about 8 New Authentic Italian Bread & Pastas on Sept. 5.All courses cost P1,800 and is inclusive of all ingredients and they all start at 1:30 p.m. For more information about Sylvia Reynoso Gala Culinary Arts Studio visit them at 181 Shaw Blvd., Pasig or call 671-4498, 671-4472 and 671-4489. You can also visit their website at www.sylviareynosogala.com.

Adv't

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
Gold Medalist, Academia de Gastronomos, Madrid, Spain – 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 Cooking Schools in Hongkong

Morella Reynoso Gala
Valedictorian, I.H.M.E.S. International Hotel School, United Kingdom – 1992
Studied Cooking at Le Cordon Bleu, London
✓Also Teaches at # 25 Gladiola St. upper Q.M. Baguio City Tel. # (074) 444-8844

Ernest Reynoso Gala
Graduate : Italian Institute for Advanced Culinary & Pastry Arts under Chef Director John Nocita, Soverato, Calebria, Italy
Graduate : Le Moulin de Mougins Alain Llorca, Cannes, France
Graduate : Ecole Ritz Escoffier, Paris Ritz Hotel, France
Graduate : Ecole Lenotre Pattiserie, Plaisir Cedex, France
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

AUG 24 THU 1:30 - 5:00PM 7 NEW SPECIAL COFFEE SHOP COOKIES BY *ERNEST*. P1,800. WAFER THIN COOKIES; CINNAMON CRINKLES; PISTACHIO CHIP COOKIES; WHOLE GRAIN SUNFLOWER COOKIES; FLORENTINES; PRETZEL-SHAPED COOKIES; CHOCO-COCO MACAROONS; SNICKERS

AUG 25 FRI 1:30 - 4:00PM - PRACTICAL, EASY, DELICIOUS NOT SPICY THAI COOKING 1 - CHICKEN GALANGA COCONUT SOUP; RED CURRY CHICKEN; GREEN CURRY CHICKEN; BEEF CURRY; CHICKEN ON A BED OF SPINACH W/ PEANUT SAUCE; BAKED RICE IN PINEAPPLE SHELL, THAI ICED TEA & THAI ICED COFFEE. **P1,800. *BY ERNEST***

AUG 26 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN. JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN W/ GRAVY; CHICKEN BURGER, DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD; SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS; FOUR SEASONS PUNCH; RIPE MANGO, MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO. GREEN MANGO JUICE. **P1,800. *BY ERNEST***

AUG 28 MON 1:30 - 5:00PM - LEARN 6 SUGAR-FREE YUMMY RECIPES MADE W/ EQUAL SPOONFUL & 4 COFFEE-SHOP BESTSELLERS MADE W/ REGULAR SUGAR! DELICIOUS SUGAR-FREE CHICKEN BARBECUE W/ SALAD GREENS W/ VINAIGRETTE DRESSING; SUGAR-FREE POLVORON; SUGAR-FREE MANGO CHEESECAKE; SUGAR-FREE ORANGE CHEESECAKE; CHOCO CHEESECAKE; ALMOST SUGAR-FREE OATMEAL WALNUT COOKIES; REGULAR COFFEE CHOCO BARS; STARBUCKS STYLE RAISIN WALNUT OATMEAL COOKIES & CHOCO CHIP WALNUT OATMEAL COOKIES. **P2,500. *BY SYLVIA & ERNEST***

AUG 29 TUE 1:30 - 4:30PM - RESTAURANT RECIPES III - SPICY BUFFALO WINGS W/ GARLIC DIP; LINGUINNE W/ CRAB FAT TOPPED W/ ROASTED BELL PEPPERS; MONTEREY ROAST BEEF SLICES W/ MOZARELLA CHEESE-TOMATO-BASIL SERVED W/ FRENCH BAKER'S CIABATTA BREAD, CAMPBELL'S DELICIOUS SHEPERD'S PIE; MONTEREY PORK TENDERLOIN STICKS W/ HOT CHILI & SATAY SAUCE. **DELICIOUS RECIPES MADE EASY! *BY ERNEST*. P1,800.**

AUG 30 WED 1:30 - 4:30PM - CHINESE COOKING. BEEF W/ BROCCOLI, SHREDDED PORK W/ TENGANG DAGA & ONIONS; LEMON CHICKEN, FRIED CRAB MEAT W/ MILK ON CRISPY NOODLES; STEAMED CHICKEN W/ HAM IN GINGER SAUCE; BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS IN BLACK BEAN SAUCE. IDEAL FOR RICE TOPPING BUSINESS! **P1,800. *BY SYLVIA***

AUG 31 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - NOT TOO SPICY, AUTHENTIC, EASY THAI NOODLES, RICE, DESSERTS III - (9 RECIPES). THAI STREET NOODLES, PAD THAI, CURRIED NOODLES W/ BEEF; CRAB FRIED RICE, PORK FRIED RICE; BLACK RICE PUDDING; TAPIOCA PUDDING; THAI CUSTARDS; SQUASH W/ COCONUT CREAM **P1,800. *BY ERNEST***

SEP 1 FRI 1:30 - 5:00PM - 7 FINGER PARTY FOOD W/ COCKTAIL PUNCH. QUICHE LORRAINE (CHEESE CUSTARD SQUARES); MONTEREY BEEF TERIYAKI KEBABS W/ GARLIC YOUGURT; CENTURY TUNA IN EGG POUCHES (HOMEMADE CREPES); DEBONED & STUFFED SHRIMPS; MAGNOLIA CHICKEN POPSICLES W. BROWN MUSHROOM GRAVY; NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INTRUCTOR LORRIE REYNOSO'S PUNCH. **P1,800. *BY ERNEST***

SEP 2 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 1. LEARN TO COOK JAPANESE STYLE TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ BELL PEPPERS, MONGO SPROUTS, WHITE ONIONS; JAPANESE MIXED RICE (KAMAMESHI); YAKITORI (CHICKEN BARBECUE IN SKEWERS), MISO SOUP, BREADED PORK CHOPS (TONKATSU), SUKIYAKI; CUCUMBER IN JAPANESE VINEGAR DRESSING. SWEET DRIED DILID (APPETIZER) **P1,800. *BY SYLVIA***

SEP 5 TUE 1:30 - 6:00PM - 8 NEW AUTHENTIC ITALIAN BREAD & PASTAS BY ERNEST. P2,500. SOFT BREAD STICKS, FOCACCIA, CIABATTA; SAUSAGE CALZONE (TURNOVERS); STROMBOLI; FOUGASSE, SPAGHETTI CON VONGOLE (CLAMS); SPAGHETTI CON POLPETTE ALLA CASALINGA (GOLF BALLS SIZED MEATBALLS). **COURSE IDEAL FOR PIZZA PARLOR OWNERS & STAFF.**

SEP 6 WED 1:30 - 5:00PM 6 HOT SHOT CHICKEN RECIPES. TENDER ROAST MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W/ SAUSAGE-APPLE STUFFING, CRISPT CHICKEN ROLLS, CRUNCHY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS W/ CREAMY GRAVY; BAKED NUT STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS; CHICKEN CROQUETTES W/ CHEESEY SAUCE; CHICKEN BREASTS W/ MUSHROOM GRAVY ON FRENCH BAKER'S WHOLE WHEAT BREAD **P1,800. *BY ERNEST***

SEP 7 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT. LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES. KIMCHI; SPINACH SALAD; MIXED RICE W/ KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBECUE, DEEP FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE); ROSE KUI, KOREAN BEEW STEW-TOPPED RICE. PUS, KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES **P1,800. *BY SYLVIA***

SEP 8 FRI 1;30 - 5:00PM - 8 NEW JUMBO COOKIES & BAR 1 - WHITE PLATTER SIZED COOKIES; PEANUT BUTTER JUMBOS; BIGGIE FRISBEE COOKIES; CHOCO OATMEAL COOKIES; REVEL BARS; MACADAMIA NUT BARS, DECADENT BROWNIES. SUPER FUDGY BROWNIES **P1,800. *BY ERNEST*. THIS COURSE IS A "MUST" FOR COFFEESHOP SUPPLIERS & BAKESHOPS**

SEP 9 SAT 1:30 - 5:30PM - AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COOKING 1. *BY ERNEST*. P1,800. MOZZARELLA IN CAROZZA (FRIED CHEESE SANDWICHES); RISOTTO CON SCAMPI (RICE W/ PRAWNS); POLLENTA PASTICICCIATA (CORNMEAL W/ WHITE SAUCE); PETTI DI POLLO ALLA BOLOGNESE (BONED CHICKEN BREASTS W/ PROSCIUTTO & CHEESE); BISTECCA ALLA PIZZAIOLA (BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ TOMATOES & GARLIC); CASATA ALLA SICILIANA (SICILIAN LAYERED CAKE W/ CHEESE & CHOCOLATE ICING).

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For more information call **726-5316 or 412 7792** and ask Rita or Jenny

September 1(Friday)9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO PANGHANDA SERIES I by: Chef Katherine Sion**, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. *Hototay Soup, Fried Chicken Tagalog, Beef with Oyster Sauce, Fresh Vegetables Lumpia, Fried Lapu-Lapu w/ sweet and Sour Sauce, Kalderetang Baboy. **P1,500**

September 1(Friday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. **P1,700**

September 2(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet). *This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. **Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1**

September 2(Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**, *This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. **P1,500 plus P700 per recipe booklet**

September 4(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval**, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy.*If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. **Recipes:** Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Mall, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! **P3,000**

September 4(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **CHINESE SEAFOOD SPECIAL II by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Shrimps Hot Salad, Crispy Noodles w/ Assorted Sea Foods, Fried Stuffed Squid w/ Soy Butter Sauce, Fried Lapu-Lapu w/ Sweet and Sour Sauce, Crabs w/ Chili Sauce, Fish Head Soup and Pineapple Rice w/ Crabmeat. **P2,000**

September 5(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval Recipes:** Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta. **P1,700**

September 5(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. *Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. **P1,700**

September 8(Friday)10:00 a.m – 4:00p.m.(classroom A) **BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca**, floral designer, *Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. **Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500**

September 8(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park**, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila. *Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. **P2,500**

September 9(Saturday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! FOOD CART IV - HOUSE OF ENSAYMADA by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations 5 new Recipes of Ensaymada: Almond Praline Ensaymada, Ensaymada Majorca, Ensaymada de Malabon, Commercial Ensaymada and Special Ube Ensaymada. **Demonstration w/ student participation. Reservation is a must! P2,600**

September 11 & 12 (Monday - Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison**, *Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders: the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation. P4,000**

September 11(Monday)9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO PANGHANDA SERIES II by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Chicken w/ Asparagus Soup, Beef Morcon, Kare-Kare, Lumpia Ubod, Pinifiahan na Manok, Pork Embotido **P1,500**

September 11(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m (classroom B)**NEW CLASS! CHINESE FASTFOOD II by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Crispy Pata, Maki Mi, Fried Stuffed Shrimp, Sizzling Litid w/ Spicy Sauce, Steam Chicken Rice, Broccoli w/ Oyster Sauce. **P2,000**

September 12(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! EASY ELEGANT "HEN" PARTIES by: Chef Vivian Syyap**, Private Chef/Caterer, Associates in Occupational Studies, Culinary Arts, with honors. The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York. *Discover the joy of entertaining by whipping up light, easy, dishes that's practically no fuss but loaded with all the frills! A delicious and elegant menu ideal for a light Ladies! Lunch or Afternoon Snacks (Bridal or Baby Showers, Despedidas, etc.). **Recipes:** Hummus with warm Pita toasts, Chicken Waldorf Salad, Duo Bruschetta of Cream Cheese, Smoked Salmon, Arugula & Crispy Bacon on marinated Tomatoes and Creamy Avocado, Saffron-marinated Pork Kabobs and Lemom-Poppy Seed Bundt Cake. **P1,800**

September 13(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (classroom A) **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison**, *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing **P1,500**

September 13(Wednesday)2:00 –5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison**, *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. **P1,500**

September 13(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! FAVORITE PINOY KAKANIN I by: Chef Carol Acosta**, *Suman sa Lihiya, Sinukmani, Torta Española, Mamon, Butterscotch, Española. **P1,500**

September 14(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom A)**HOUSE OF CHEESECAKE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, * New York Cheesecake, Japanese Cheesecake, No-Baked Cheesecake, Green Tea Tiramisu and My Best Cheesecake

September 15(Friday)9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO PANGHANDA SERIES III by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Laguna lengua, Pork hardinera, Chicken BBQ, Tortang Alimasag, Pancit Malabon, Grilled local Gindara Steak. **P1,500**

September 15(Friday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO PAMBAHAY SERIES I by: Chef Katherine Sion**, *Sinigang na Baboy, Boneless Bangus, Chicken Apritada, Kilawin na Labanos, Ginataang Hipon, Adobong Pata. **P1,500**

September 16(Saturday) 9:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! NEW ASIAN COOKING WORKSHOP 2 by: Chef Sam de Leoz**, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competiton Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine. Experience the flavors and spices from Southeast Asia and learn to prepare the dishes in quick and easy step-by-step methods at home. **Recipes:** Spicy Kangkong Sambal, Vietnamese Chicken Salad, Chili Crab, Korma, Vietnamese Stuffed Chicken Wings, Laos Steamed Prawns in Banana Leaves. **P2,200**

September 18 & 19(Monday - Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m (classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison**, *Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating – the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flower. **Full participation.P4,000**

September 18(Monday)9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **CHINESE DELI by: Nestor Magrimbao**, Baker, Ferna Corporation **Recipes:** Dico Hopia, Tikoy, Siopao Mongo, Buchi & Moon Cake. **P1,500**

September 19(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HEALTHY GOURMET: INTERNATIONAL DISHES FOR VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN COOKING by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** Learn about vegetarian diets and how to convert non-vegetarian dishes into vegetarian dishes and vice versa enabling you to meet different dietary needs and preference. **Recipes:** Tomato-Basil Brushette, Anchovies-Tapenade Brushette. Vegetable stock based Squash Cream Soup w/ Tofu Croutons, Chicken stock based Cream Soup w/ Gingered Chicken Breast, Warm Beef-Watercress Salad, Watercress Asparagus Salad, Classic Quiche Lorraine w/ Smoked Bacon, Ricotta Spinach Quiche on Whole Wheat Crust, Green Curry Shrimps, Sweet Potato Curry Vegetable Medley. **P2,400**

September 20(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison**, *Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

September 20(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE COOKING 3 by: Chef Koichi Kondo, Recipes:** Yakisoba, Yaki-Udon, Tamagoyaki, Saikoro Steak, Ebi-Fry, Koroke, Kani Salad & Coffee Jelly. **P1,700**

September 21(Thursday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! CURRY WORKSHOP I by: Chef Sam de Leoz** Discover the many curry styles of Southeast Asia. *Learn to prepare delicious main courses and accompaniments. **Recipes:** Spicy Dal, Curry Vegetable Spring Rolls, Chicken Vindaloo, Penang Duck Curry, Thai Red Curry Shrimp, Lamb and Potato Rissoles and Spicy Tomato Rice. **P2,500**

September 22(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**NEW CLASS! GUILT-FREE SWEET TEMPTATIONS by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle**, one of our school's home-grown chefs who has proven his mettle as Executive Chef of Mezze Restaurant and Bar at Greenbelt 2, pastry consultant of Bakeshops and chef consultant to other multinational food brands. He is one of the resident chefs of IBC 13's A Taste of Life with Heny Sison Let Carlo show the tricks of giving in to those tempting sweets yet avoiding the fat and the carbs. **Recipes** include various kinds of Fat-free Yogurt Cheesecake with Fat-free crust, Fat-free Vodka Cake, Apple-Banana Bread Pudding, and Fat-free Carrot Cake. He will also show you how to whip up a totally fat-free, sugar free whipping topping from scratch. **P1,500**

September 23(Saturday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! MEDITERRANEAN MEZE WORKSHOP I by: Chef Sam de Leoz**, *A taste of simple easy to prepare Mediterranean Meze. **Recipes:** Falafel (Spicy Chick Pea Fritters), Grilled Lamb Kofta, Spanakopita (Spinach Pie), Bourekakaia Me Kota (Chicken Filo Rolls), Fassoulada (Greek Bean Soup), Garides Me Saltsa (Prawn Bake) and Spiced Vegetable Couscous. **P2,500**

September 25(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **SPECIAL TABLE AND HOME DECOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca**, *Table Centerpieces w/ actual demonstration and table setting presentation **Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

September 25(Monday)9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY I (Features delicious and easy to make Bars and Cookies) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, *You are sure to enjoy baking them. **Recipes include:** The Best Chocolate Cookie, Black Forest Bars, Choconut Crumble Bars, No Bake Brownie, Flourless Brownie and Brownie Christmas Pudding. **P1,950**

September 25(Monday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY II (Features Bottled Goodies and Breads) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, *Discover how easy to make gifts to tease the taste buds. Enjoy the flavorful dips. **Recipes include:** My Best Liver Pate, Eggplant Caviar, Smoked Tinapa Spread, Puttanesca Sauce, Black & White Sesame Grissini, Garlic Sticks, Baguette, Melba Toast and U.S. Granular Potato Crackers. **P1,700**

September 26(Tuesday) 9:00 a.m -1:00 p.m (classroom A) **JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo Recipes:** Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). **P1,700**

September 26(Tuesday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m.(classroom A) **SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, * Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) and California Maki. **P1,700**

September 26(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! BREAKFAST & BRUNCH COOKERY II by: Chef Vivian Syyap**, * Complete your fundamentals of Breakfast & Brunch cookery by learning the following: Basic Muffin Recipes & variations (*Banana, Carrot-Walnut & Pumpkin w/ Cream Cheese Icing*); Potato Cookery (*Hash Browns, Homefries & Lyonnaise Potatoes*); Cereals (*Granola & Muesli*); Brunch Sandwiches (*Croque Monsieur & Croque Madame*); Home-made Yogurt (*Regular & Low-fat version*), and a lecture of Hot Beverages (*Coffee & Tea*). **P1,500**

September 27(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! YOGURT IT YOURSELF! by: Chef Carlo Estagle**, *Learn how to make yogurt, and even use it in different dishes from appetizers, soups, salads, pastas and even desserts. **Recipes include:** Carrot-Potato Yogurt Soup, Ampalaya Salad with yogurt and crabsticks, Pasta with Yogurt Cream sauce, and New York Yogurt Cheese cake. **P1,500**

September 27(Wednesday)9:30 a.m – 3:30 p.m. (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HOLIDAY DESIGNER'S CAKES WITH TORANI by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, *Dressing up your cakes for Christmas. **Recipes include:** Earl Grey Tea Chocolate Ganache Cake, Black Forest Cake, Buche de Noel, Lemon Meringue Yule Log, Chocolate Roll and My Best Moist Chocolate Cake. **P2,750**

September 28(Thursday)9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! HOUSE OF FRUITCAKE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**. *The inviting aroma of fruit cake marks the advent of Christmas. To most people, fruitcake is Christmas. Learn to bake your dream fruitcake and pass on to your loved ones for your family tradition. **Recipes include:** Graham Fruitcake, My Moms Fruitcake with Brandy Sauce, French Fruit Cake, White Fruit Cake, Chocolate Fruitcake with Sugar Glaze and Cream Cheese Fruitcake. **Reservation is Requested! P2,950**

September 29(Friday)9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m. (classroom A) **NEW CLASS! TECHNIQUES OF FINE COOKING I (Featuring Chicken) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva Hands-on preparation and cooking of chicken.** *Each student shall be assigned whole chicken to butcher and debone. Learn how to grill, roast, stew, fry, sauté, steam and make sauces. **Recipes include:** Chicken Gallantina, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Sate, Classic Roasted Herb Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Caesar Salad, Chicken Fricasse and Chicken Teriyaki **Reservation is Requested! P2,650**

September 30(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) **INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, *Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice **P2,500**

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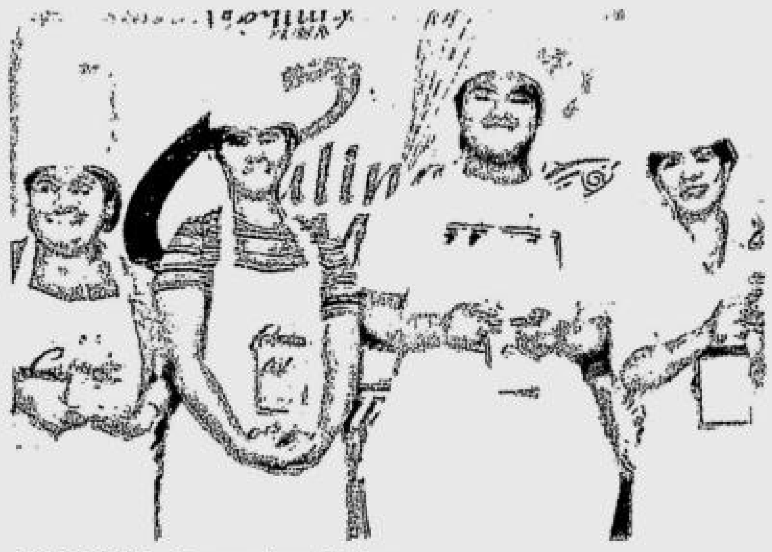

FINALISTS in the amateur division

Tuna, with a Pinoy twist

THE 4TH CULINARY COMPETITION dedicated to Century Tuna was held recently at the Activity Center of Market! Market! in Taguig City.

With the theme "A Taste of Tuna and Tradition," grand finalists for the amateur, HRM students and professional divisions concocted original tuna recipes with a Pinoy twist.

Adjudged top winners were Jocelyn Manalad of Quezon City, amateur division; Team Lyceum of the Philippines, HRM student division; and Nuvo Restaurant and Bar chief cook Jerry Matematico, professional division. Besides the grand prize trophy, Matematico will attend a week-long culinary course at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

A year in the making, the Century Tuna Culinary Meet Cooking Competition is the brainchild of Culinary Club directress and Island Flavors TV show host Gigi Angkaw.

Now on its fourth year running, the culinary meet aims to hone the skills of students, homemakers and other food enthusiasts.

This year's event was made possible with the support of Angel Evaporated Filled Milk, Ariston, Cream Cornstarch and All-purpose Flour, Ideal Premium Spaghetti and Macaroni, Jolly, Good Life, Moulinex and official caterer Yoshinoya.

Following are two of the winning recipes:

NUVO chief cook Jerry Matematico, winner in the professional division

Century Tuna Roll Embutido with Sweet and Sour Sauce

(Champion-student category)

1 c diced green and red bell pepper
3 cans (184 g) Century Tuna Chunks in Vegetable Oil, drained
2 tbsp chopped garlic
1 c diced carrots
¼ c raisins
1 c Australian Harvest Quick Cooking Oats
½ c Cream All-Purpose Flour
2 eggs, beaten
4 peeled salted eggs

Mix together bell peppers, tuna, garlic, carrots, raisins, oats and fresh eggs. Place in a Moulinex Food Processor. Pulse until smooth. Flatten mixture on aluminum foil. Place salted eggs in the middle. Roll tightly to make *embutido*. Steam in a Moulinex Aroma Diffuser Steamer for 30 minutes. Allow to cool before slicing.

Sauce:
2 tbsp Jolly Vegetable Oil
2 tbsp chopped garlic
½ c diced onion
½ c diced tomato
½ c diced red and green bell pepper
3 tbsp Cream Cornstarch, dissolved in 2 c water
2 tbsp sugar
1/3 c honey
1/3 c vinegar

Heat oil in pan. Sauté garlic and onion. Add tomatoes and bell peppers. Pour in cornstarch solution. Add sugar, honey and vinegar. Simmer until thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Tuna Flakes Spaghetti with Creamy Aligue Sauce

(Champion-amateur category)

500 g Ideal Premium Spaghetti
2 tbsp Jolly Cooking Oil
1-2 cloves garlic, chopped
½ c Jolly Button Mushrooms
½ c sliced red and green bell pepper
½ c *taba ng talangka*
1 can Jolly Cream of Mushroom Soup
3 cans (184 g) Century Tuna Flakes with lemon and butter
½ tsp salt
½ tsp ground black pepper
1 c shaved Parmesan cheese
¼ c chopped parsley

Cook pasta as directed in package.

Heat cooking oil in a pan. Sauté garlic, mushrooms and bell peppers. Stir in *taba ng talangka*, cream of mushroom soup and tuna with its liquid. Allow to simmer for 2-3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 3 more minutes. Toss in cooked pasta. Transfer to a plate then top with Parmesan shavings and set aside. Serve hot with toasted garlic bread on the side.

Garlic bread:
¼ c softened butter
1 clove garlic, chopped
8 slices bread, cut into triangles

Mix together butter and garlic. Spread on bread and broil until toasted.

Fresh look for old favorites

DINING OUT

FISH & CO. GIVES A FRESH LOOK TO salads, burgers, crabs and prawns. Unagi Salad is assorted mix greens tossed with Teriyaki sauce and topped with smoked Unagi filet. Soft Shell Crab Salad is low-fat and high-protein, with assorted greens blending with crispy, breaded soft shell crab. Sambal Prawns are sweet, crisp and tender. Low in fat, it is served with special homemade *sambal* sauce, seafood rice and vegetables. Fish Burger is garnished fried fish filet with special spice flour, shredded lettuce and served with chips. Fish & Co. restaurants are in Greenbelt 3, tel. 7297431 to 32; and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9102140 and 42.

SOHO Teahouse (Paseo Center along Paseo de Roxas, Makati) presents Yum Yum Dimsum Treats. Choose from three dim sum meal platters: Fried Dumplings, Spring Roll and Siomai, P200; Siomai, Fried Dumplings, Fried Chicken Balls and Spring Roll, P220; and Fried Dumplings, Spring Roll and BBQ Chicken, P250. Order two San Miguel Pale Pilsen or Light beer and get one free bottle. Call 8122226 or 8124576.

AT TIA Maria's, try something hot this rainy season: Chicken Mozzarella Fajitas, a sizzling platter of chicken strips with lime and spices. Topped with mushrooms, bacon, bell peppers and *jalapeños*, it is covered with melted whole milk and mozzarella cheese. Promo is available at all Tia Maria's and Cantina outlets this August.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Japanese restaurant, Benkay, presents Chef Tomiyama's very own set menu featuring delectable appetizers, assorted sashimi and other Japanese specials at P1,500+ per person. Call 8673333.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Peony Garden presents "The Great Noodle Festival" until Aug. 31. Noodle dishes include Tom Yam Rice Vermicelli, Prawn Noodle Soup, Jawa Noodles, Curry Lak Sha Noodles, Fish Gravy Rice Vermicelli, Egg Noodles with Minced Pork and Vegetables, Spicy Udon Noodles and India Fried Noodles. Call 5261212 local 2503/2296.

FISH & Co. Fish Burger (above) and Unagi Salad (below)

SAKAE Sushi presents *kaminabe*, a choice of seafood, chicken or beef served with tofu, carrots, mushrooms, lettuce, and onion stalks. "*Nabe*" in Japanese means pot. But, instead of the traditional stone pot, modern Kaminabe is served in a special paper pot. Sakae Sushi is at Crescent West Park, Global City and Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 8434891/8435452.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL'S Restaurant Riviera presents Malaysian cuisine "Malaysia... Truly Asia's Kitchen," until Aug. 31, for only P950+ dinner or lunch buffet per person. Call 8548888.

ENTERTAINMENT

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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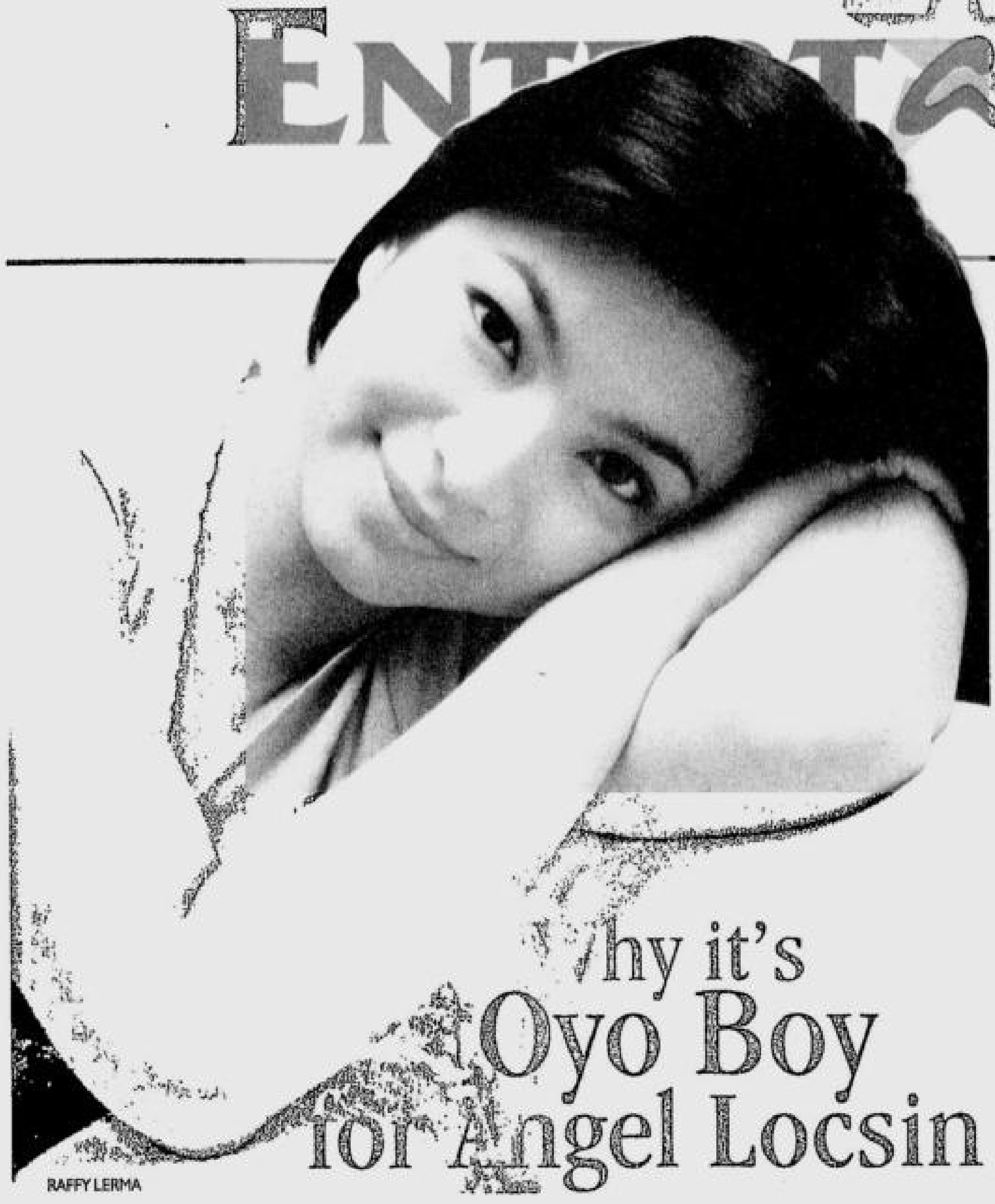

RAFFY LERMA

Why it's Oyo Boy for Angel Locsin

By Nini Valera

THE TWISTS AND TURNS IN the life of Angel Locsin could be compared to the convoluted plot of a *fantaserye*.

At 19, Angel was the grieving girlfriend of Miko Sotto, son of Maru and Ali Sotto. Miko died after falling from the ninth floor of a Mandaluyong City condominium in 2003.

Three years later, Angel falls in love with Miko's cousin, Oyo Boy Sotto, son of Vic Sotto and Dina Bonnevie, and Miko's cousin.

In a recent interview with INQUIRER Entertainment at the location shoot of "Majika" in Cavinti, Laguna, the actress, now a big star, said the two Sottos in her life are very different from each other.

"Miko is *makulit* (playful)," she said. "Oyo Boy is the serious type. He is very thoughtful. Once, during our [monthly 'anniversary'], he gave me a collage of our pictures. I was

WHY IT'S/ D5

A million-dollar pledge

By Marinel R. Cruz

FIND A GOOD FILM WITH A Filipino concept and an English script and we will finance it.

This was the promise made by Cebu-based Bigfoot Entertainment to the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), with which it recently entered into a partnership to "promote local creativity and ideas to screen."

Bigfoot was willing to finance or co-produce a movie for as much as $1-2 million, FDCP vice chair Christine Dayrit told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday.

Dayrit said a "structure" was now being developed to define the working parameters between FDCP and Bigfoot for finding the right film.

She said the pledged fund was not limited to movies; it could also be used for music videos and documentaries.

In a meeting last week with Bigfoot Group of Companies chair Michael Gleissner, Dayrit said the Hollywood production company "really wants us to help get the word out—that it wants to buy good scripts in English."

Bigfoot has thus far partially funded and/or fully produced films like "3 Needles" (Thom Fitzgerald), "Shanghai Kiss" (Kern Konwiser and David Ren), "The Curiosity of Chance" (Tad Hilgenbrinck, Brett Chukerman and Russell P. Marleau) and the documentary "USS Cooper: The Return to Ormoc Bay" (Daniel Foster).

In charge of the fund is Bigfoot Partners, the film financing division of Bigfoot Entertainment.

"There is no limit to the number of films that Bigfoot wants to finance or co-produce here," said Dayrit, who is also chair of the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB). "It wants Filipino stories that can be shot in tourist spots here; in other words, those that will showcase the beauty of the country."

Dayrit added that Bigfoot was also offering the use of its state-of-the-art production and post-production facilities in the sprawling 19,300-sq.m. property in Cebu.

FDCP chair Jacky Atienza said in a statement: "[Bigfoot's funding will] help address some of the financing gaps in the local media industry... It answers the need for high production quality, especially when taking into consideration falling cinema attendance due to a wide availability of sophisticated home entertainment systems, the influx of digital media and the nagging persistence of piracy."

Meanwhile, Dayrit announced that a delegation of movie producers and filmmakers was set to fly to Korea on Oct. 14 for the 1st Asian Film Market.

Among the films to be sold during the week-long event are CM Films' "Panaghoy sa Suba," MLR Films' "Minsan Pa" and "Kubrador," GMA Films' "Moments of Love" and Premier Productions' "4 American Films."

Also on the list are 12 films from Unitel Pictures, namely, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," "Awaken," "Blackout," "Cavite," "Crying Ladies," "Imelda," "Inang Yaya," "La Visa Loca," "Magdalena," "Magnifico," "Pinoy Blonde" and "Nasaan si Francis?"

INSIDE

▨ Bye, Zayra/D6

▨ Freaky on 'Idol' /D2

▨ Marriage after rehab?/D6

Ogie denies rumored annulment

By Nini Valera

"I THINK PEOPLE JUST LIKE TO talk and speculate," said Ogie Alcasid, referring to persistent rumors of the breakup of his 10-year marriage to Michelle van Eimeren.

"Not true," was Ogie's terse comment about a recent report that he was set to file for annulment any time now. "I just don't want to break my silence."

Ogie told INQUIRER Entertainment how he and Michelle were making their long-distance relationship work.

Living apart

Next week, Ogie is headed for England to do a show, after which he said he would go straight to Australia to celebrate his birthday with his family. He turns 39 on Aug. 27.

"Father's Day in Australia is celebrated on the first Sunday of September. It's also my second daughter's birthday," he said.

For three years now, Ogie has lived apart from his Michelle and his kids, who are based in Robertson in New South Wales.

"A lot of people find that difficult

OGIE/ D3

HUGH Laurie AP

Hugh on House: I see him clearly

NEW YORK—HUGH LAURIE, THE BRITISH actor who won a Golden Globe for his role on the Fox medical drama, "House," says speaking like an American isn't as easy as it sounds.

"I haven't identified a single word pronounced the same in America as it is in England," Laurie, 47, tells Entertainment Weekly magazine in this week's issue. "That can take you out of the moment, having to constantly check your accent. I moan about it a lot."

Laurie plays Dr. Gregory House, the cranky doctor who heads a medical team specializing in the diagnosis of rare disorders. His right leg crippled by a blood clot, House walks with a cane, pops painkillers and has a perpetual stubble. He's testy with patients, colleagues and his staff, but is a brilliant diagnostician.

"I could see [House] very clearly in my head from the start," Laurie tells the magazine. "I could hear him in my head—the rhythm of his speech, what he was hiding behind the meanness and sarcasm."

The third season of "House" premieres Sept. 5 in the US. In the Philippines, it is only in its second season on AXN, with the third episode airing on Monday. AP

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CLICK PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	ANT BULLY G 1:10,3:15,5:20,7:25	SNAKE ON THE PLANE 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

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Singing tilt's search for finalists proceeds apace

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"PHILIPPINE IDOL" ON ABC-5 LAST Aug. 20 focused on the CCP phase of the winnowing-down process, with 163 semi-finalists from Baguio to Zamboanga performing for jurors **Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales** and **Francis M**, to survive the sequential cuts to 80-plus and then down to 40.

It was instructive to see the wide range of attention-calling ploys that the young singers resorted to in order to make a positive impression on the jurors.

Freaky behavior

Some banked mostly on their good singing voices, but others opted to hedge their bets by adding wild costumes and freaky behavior to the equation.

They must have gotten their cue from "American Idol," where the "freaks" generally rate at least a few seconds of TV time, while the "normal" singers are glossed over because they're too "ordinary."

True enough, the more visually idiosyncratic "Philippine Idol" semi-finalists did get their 15 seconds of ephemeral fame or notoriety.

Happily, however, the jurors generally preferred the real talents to the "*kulang sa pansin*" characters, and the singers who made it to the 80-plus phase were mostly "normal" types.

A word to the wise, therefore, for future "Philippine Idol" bets: If all you want is a few seconds on national television, go ahead and look and act like a gargoyle.

But, if you want to make it all the way to the finals, focus on your performing talent, and leave the weird costumes and outlandish behavior at home—where they belong!

After the first cut at the CCP, the survivors were combined in groups of three, to see how they worked together.

Most of the trios appeared to pass muster in this regard, and came up with impressive attempts at harmony, even as they gave each member of their trio enough time to strut his or her solo stuff.

Last Sunday's telecast ended at that point. Going by "American Idol's" process, the next show should focus on the next cut to 40, then down to 24, and the final 12, whose fortunes will be decided on by the show's text voters over the new few months.

So, what are the local singing search's prospects for success? We heard enough outstanding voices at the CCP to encourage us to be optimistic, and the generally wise choices of the jurors comprise another reason for us to be upbeat.

'Talent arc'

But a lot depends on how the finalists they eventually choose will pan out as total performers with sufficient talent and charisma to "grow" on viewers in the weeks to come.

. In other words, the show's outcome will ultimately depend on the juror's perspicacity in choosing finalists who have much more to offer than a dazzling first impression.

Let's hope that all 12 finalists will be gifted and open enough to provide that exciting "talent arc" or "learning curve" that will inspire total strangers to support their fierce and quixotic quest for singing stardom.

'The Lost City'

To be shown exclusively at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3 starting Aug. 30, "The Lost City" sets it story in Havana, Cuba in 1958. Residents aren't happy under the rule of dictator Fulgencio Batista. As the revolutionary forces of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara prepare to move in, Fico Fellove (**Andy Garcia**) struggles to hold his family together and sustain the love of a woman (**Ines Sastre**)—not knowing that the nightclub he owns will become more than just a stage for popular entertainment.

Observing all this is The Writer (**Bill Murray**), an expatriate American who sees Fico being drawn into events as the revolution changes everything. Though Fico watches a culture vanish and a people being transformed, it is his love for Cuban music that keeps his memories alive.

Feedback

Re the new TV show "Square Off," Ester of Quezon City opines, "**Mike Defensor**'s frat could have made a campaign starting even the other Wednesday to vote for him as he lost in the evening's first debate against **Chiz Escudero**.

"I guess the campaign only started during the second debate and so was not able to affect the real sentiments of viewers then, but it succeeded with the third debate.

"I think the discrepancy was so huge to make the results questionable. Personally, I feel Chiz had better arguments.

"I think there should be a more independent assessment of the debates, rather than through text messaging which can be manipulated—which you had pointed out in your review, which I agree with."

TRUE Faith

Tribute to jazz greats

SHOW TIME

MCO FOUNDATION INC. AND EQUITABLE PCI Bank, in cooperation with St. Paul University Manila, present "A Tribute to Jazz Greats," a night of music by Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Herbie Hancock and Miles Davis as performed by Jazz T 5 (Lyndon Aguilar, Patrice Pacis, Ruben Reyes, Rodel Rivera and Joey Valenciano—music faculty of UST and St. Paul University Manila), saxophonist Michael Young, with special participation of International Jazz Festival Grand Prize Winner Mon David.

The concert is set on Saturday, 7 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St. Makati City.

Tickets at P500 and P800 available at St. Paul University Manila. Call 524-5687 loc. 216.

'Sail On'

Doc Bob Aquino, a dentist by profession, has come up with an album dedicated to the Holy Face of Jesus.

Hypernova Productions, Doc Bob's own media company, has just released "Sail On... His Most Holy Face."

To launch the album—which is being released by Universal Records—a concert of the same title will be held Sept. 2 at the Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila, featuring Jose Mari Chan, Hajji Alejandro, Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez, Paolo Santos and Cris Villonco.

Call 526-9250 and 0919603-6498.

Winston Wings

Winston presents another weekend party with the country's top bands via Winston Wings Tour 2006.

The Dawn rocks Ratsky-Tomas Morato tomorrow. On Saturday, it's True Faith's turn at the Batangas Country Club in Bolbok, Batangas City.

The Dawn's Ratsky show features the Pin-Up Girls as opener.

Only those 18 years old and above are allowed into Winston Wings events. Valid IDs may be required as proof of age.

ISAY Alvarez and Robert Seña

'Rockista 2006'

Colt 45 launches the very first regional finals of its "Rockista 2006" at Marikina River Banks on Saturday.

The grand winner takes home P450,000 incash and a one-year record deal and management contract. Highlight of the event is a live performance by Bamboo.

Tonight

Michael Angelo and **Blue Jean Junkies** at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Nostalgia at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Compose Band with **Retrospect** at **Mugen Bar**

KUH Ledesma

Tomorrow

Kuh Ledesma in "Come Rain, Come Shine" at the **Mandarin Oriental**

Orange and Lemons at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Madrigal Singers at **SM Mall of Asia**; 4 p.m.

Tribe of Levi at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Hush Band with **Highlights** at **Mugen Bar**

RJ and Friends with **Moonstrucks** at **RJTV Bar**, Paseo de Roxas Bel-Air III

August 26

Shane at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

UrbanNation with **Livewire** at **Mugen Bar**

August 27

Madrigal Singers at **SM North Edsa**; 4 p.m.

Marikina Dance Guild at **Marikina Riverbanks Center**; 5 p.m.

Fatbabes at **Mugen Bar**

August 28

Hemp Republic and **Out 4 Lunch** at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

OJ Mariano at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Skrotum Band with **Ferdie Bernal** and **Le Chazz** at **Mugen Bar**

August 29

Julianne Kiko at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

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4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
PREMIERE
AMERICAN DREAMZ
ANT BULLY

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2 SNEAK ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SAINT ANGE

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SNEAK ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150
3 LITTLE MAN
4 SNEAK ON A PLANE
5 HADA

metropolis star cinema
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3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LITTLE MAN

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2 JUST MY LUCK
3 RESERVED
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9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 OH MY GHOST

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12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
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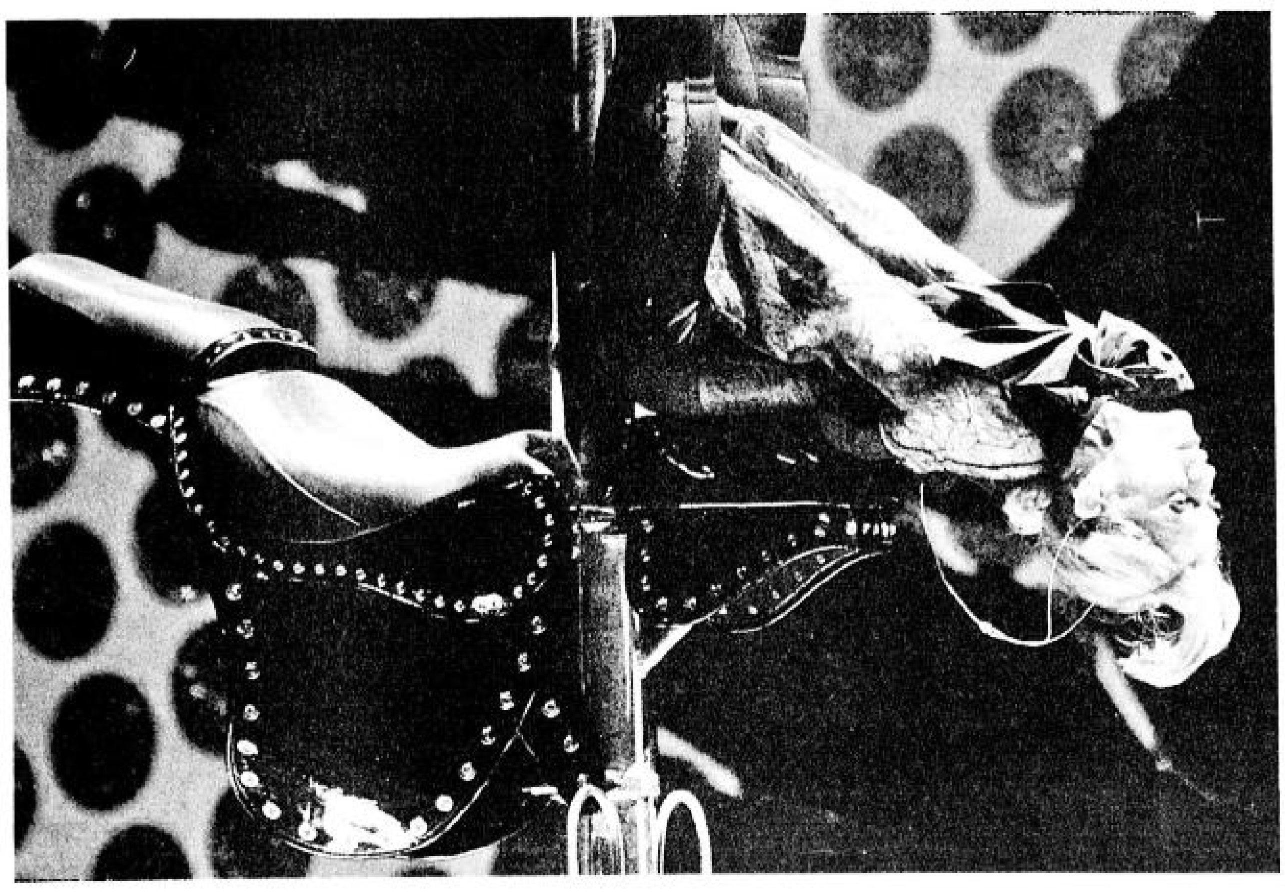
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
4 CLICK 1:05, 3:25, 6:05, 11:05 PG-13



WHERE'S THAT GIRL!
Madonna has her way with a pole and saddle as she performs on Sunday during the first concert in her ongoing German tour. This is at the LTU-Arena in Duesseldorf, where she presented her new record, "Confessions on a Dancefloor."

AFP

Ogie denies rumored annulment

From page D1

to understand," said Ogie. "But Michelle and I have an understanding. We have to make a lot of sacrifices."

Their house in Australia was finished in December last year. The lifestyle over there Australia is expensive, he admitted. "But my family is living there quite comfortably. My children are very blessed to be living in a country keen on taking care of its children."

Very Aussie

Ogie and Michelle have two daughters, Lila, 9, and Sarah, 4. The kids, Ogie said, are growing up to be Aussies.

"I try to talk to them in Filipino, but it's now lost in translation," said Ogie. "Michelle could still speak Tagalog, but the children don't. They're very Aussie, but they know their Filipino roots. I talk to them a lot about the Philippines. Most of the time, I tell them that they are so lucky in the sense that a lot of Filipino kids don't have what they have.

"My kids are very sheltered. Michelle is 100-percent mom. But I'd like my children to realize how blessed they are. I think they are intelligent enough to understand that."

Michelle and the kids have not come back to the country since they left in 2003. Ogie, who goes to Australia "nine times a year," plans to bring them here next year to celebrate his 40th birthday.

Ogie feels luckier than most Filipino fathers who work overseas.

"Some don't see their family for three or four years. Some even have bosses who mistreat them. My work here is very good. It's something I enjoy doing. I'm not being punished here," he said, laughing.

Ogie has made no attempt to bring his work to Australia.

Happy here

"It's difficult to export my work. I have no idea how," he said. "All I know about work is here in the Philippines, and I'm quite happy here."

In Australia, Ogie is just an ordinary guy, something he doesn't mind at all. Of course, he is far from ordinary here. The star of QTV 11's "Ay Robot" and GMA 7's "Nuts Entertainment" and "SOP" relishes television work, saying it's therapy for him.

"That's probably why I don't look my age," he joked.

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SNAKES ON A PLANE 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	LITTLE MAN 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
OH MY GHOST 12:40 / 2:35 / 4:30 / 6:25 / 8:20	SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2 CLICK 3 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FREEDOMLAND 5 KUBRADOR 6 LITTLE MAN 7 SUKOB
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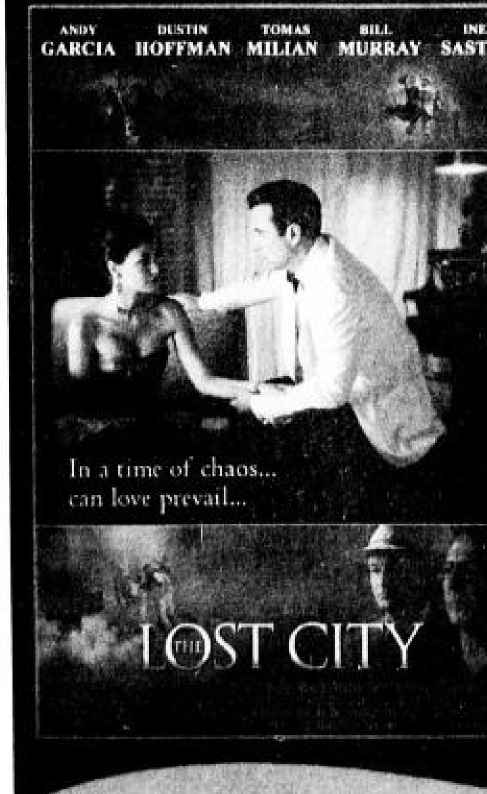

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-Steven Holden, New York Times

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-Todd Hill, Newhouse News

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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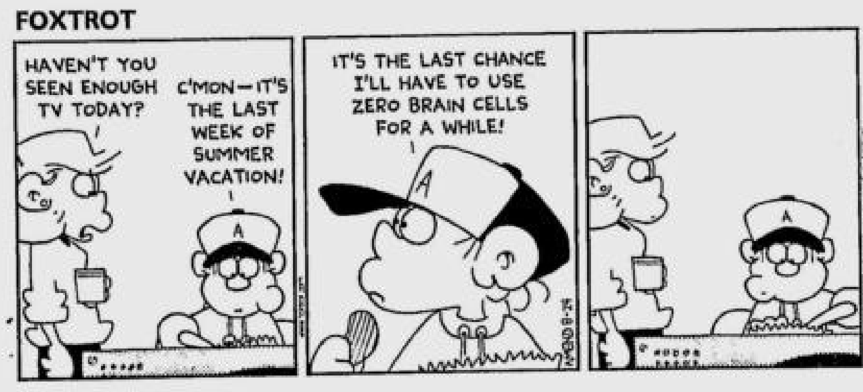
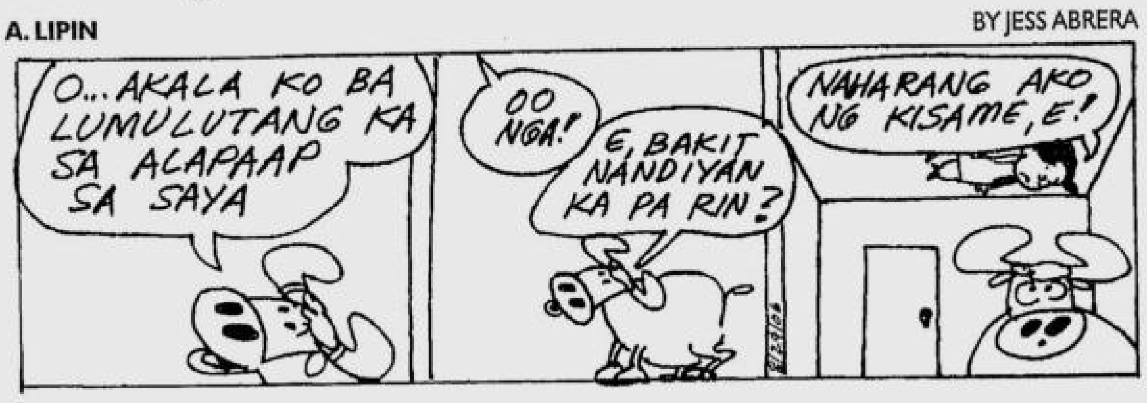
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HAVEN'T YOU SEEN ENOUGH TV TODAY?
C'MON—IT'S THE LAST WEEK OF SUMMER VACATION!
IT'S THE LAST CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO USE ZERO BRAIN CELLS FOR A WHILE!
I SEEM TO RECALL A PARTICULAR HISTORY TEST FROM LAST YEAR...
OK, IT'S THE LAST CHANCE TO USE ZERO BRAIN CELLS ON PURPOSE.

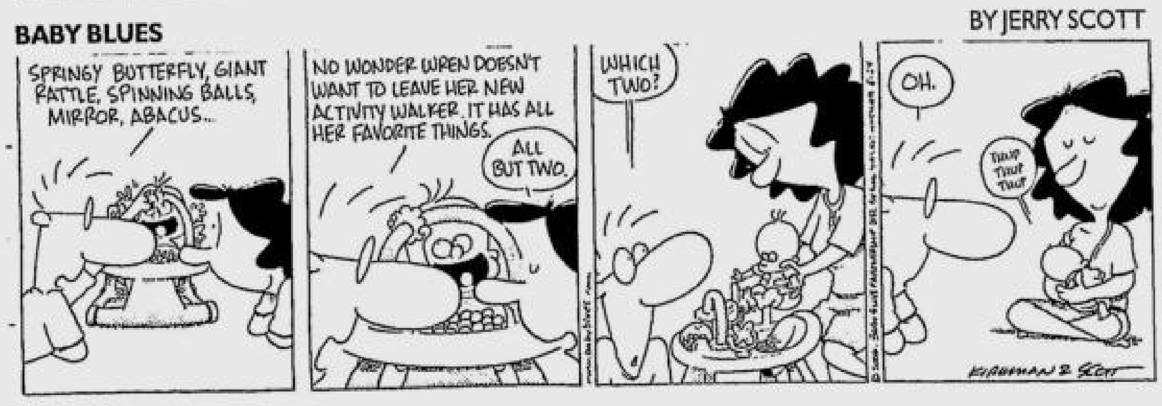
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... AKALA KO BA LUMULUTANG KA SA ALAPAAP SA SAYA
OO NGA!
E, BAKIT NANDIYAN KA PA RIN?
NAHARANG AKO NG KISAME, E!

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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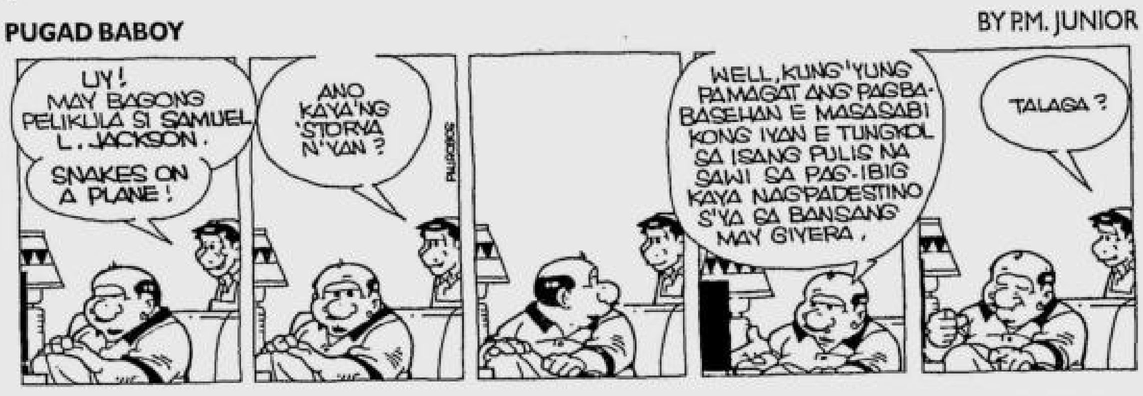
NO WONDER WREN DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE HER NEW ACTIVITY WALKER. IT HAS ALL HER FAVORITE THINGS.
ALL BUT TWO.
WHICH TWO?
OH.
THUP THUP THUP
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

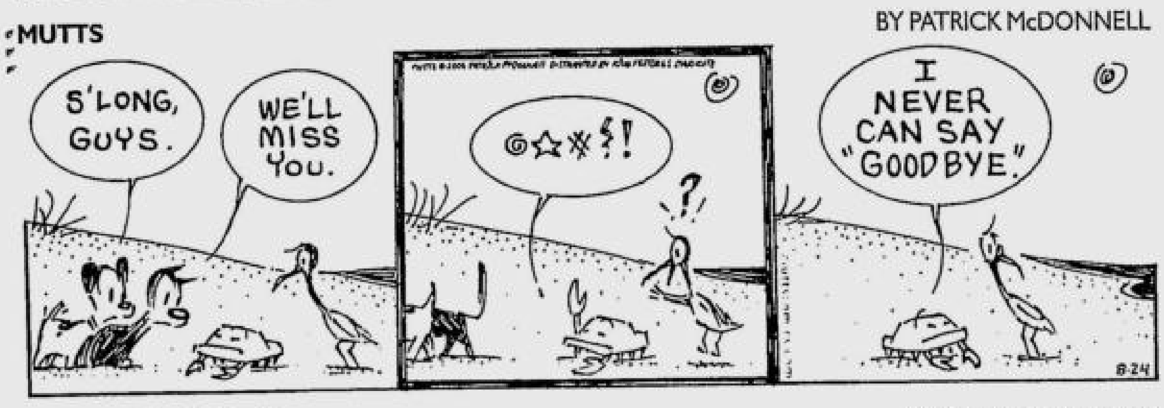
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


UY! MAY BAGONG PELIKULA SI SAMUEL L. JACKSON.
SNAKES ON A PLANE!
ANO KAYA'NG 'STORYA N'YAN?
WELL, KUNG 'YUNG PAMAGAT ANG PAGBABASEHAN E MASASABI KONG IYAN E TUNGKOL SA ISANG PULIS NA SAWI SA PAG-IBIG KAYA NAGPADESTINO S'YA SA BANSANG MAY GIYERA.
TALAGA?

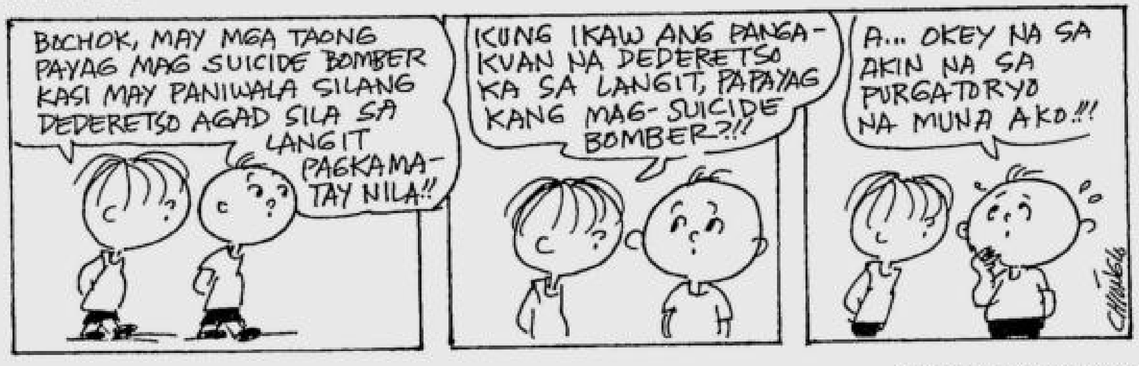
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


S'LONG, GUYS.
WE'LL MISS YOU.
@☆✻$!
?
I NEVER CAN SAY "GOODBYE."
8·24

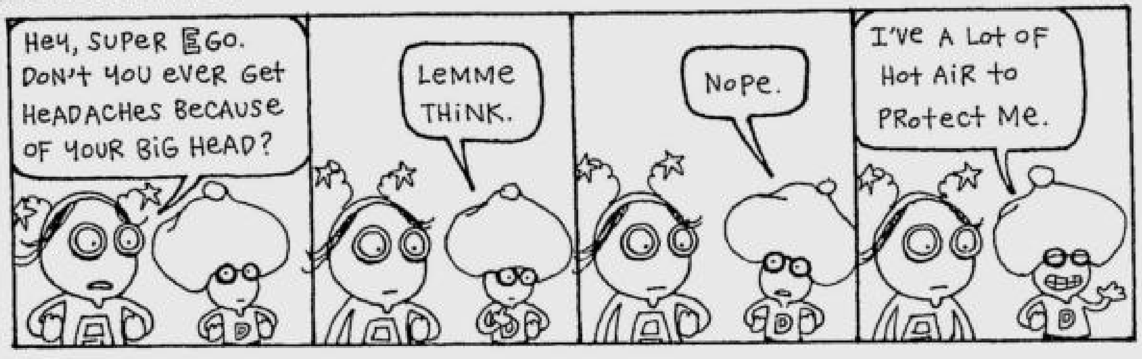
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, MAY MGA TAONG PAYAG MAG SUICIDE BOMBER KASI MAY PANIWALA SILANG DEDERETSO AGAD SILA SA LANGIT PAGKAMATAY NILA!!
KUNG IKAW ANG PANGAKUAN NA DEDERETSO KA SA LANGIT, PAPAYAG KANG MAG-SUICIDE BOMBER?!!
A... OKEY NA SA AKIN NA SA PURGATORYO NA MUNA AKO!!!

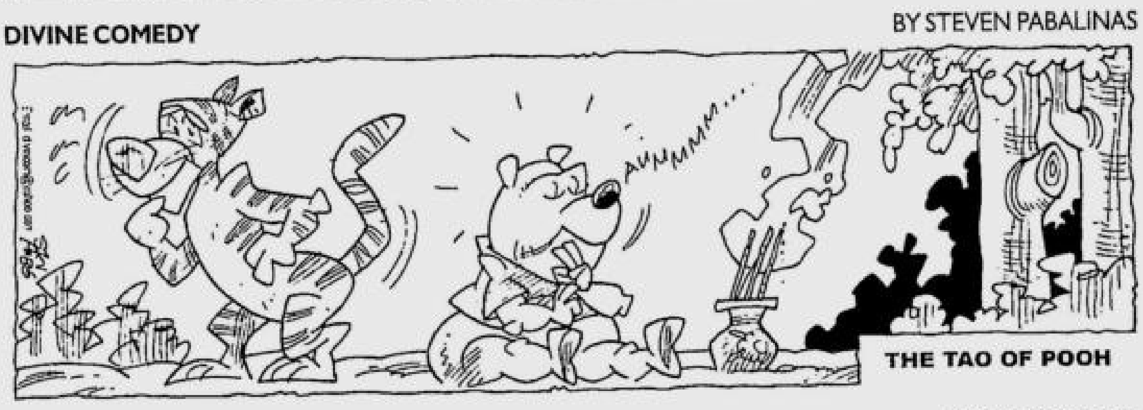
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, SUPER EGO. Don't you ever Get HeADACHES BecAuse of your BiG HeAD?
Lemme THiNK.
Nope.
I've A Lot of Hot Air to PRotect Me.

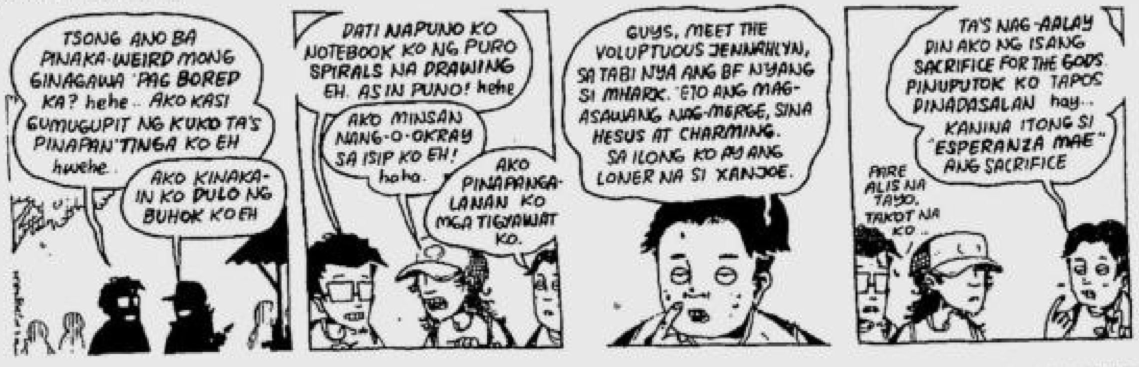
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AUMMMM....
THE TAO OF POOH

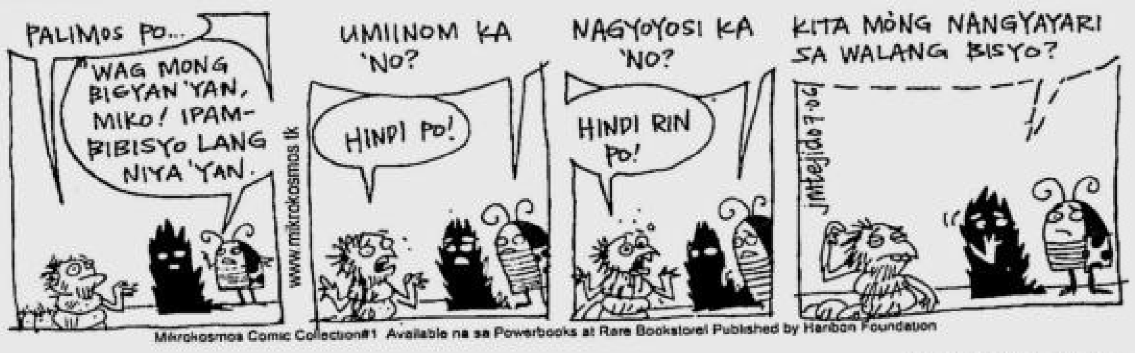
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG ANO BA PINAKA-WEIRD MONG GINAGAWA 'PAG BORED KA? hehe.. AKO KASI GUMUGUPIT NG KUKO TA'S PINAPAN'TINGA KO EH hwehe.
AKO KINAKAIN KO DULO NG BUHOK KO EH
DATI NAPUNO KO NOTEBOOK KO NG PURO SPIRALS NA DRAWING EH. AS IN PUNO! hehe
AKO MINSAN NANG-O-OKRAY SA ISIP KO EH! haha.
AKO PINAPANGALANAN KO MGA TIGYAWAT KO.
GUYS, MEET THE VOLUPTUOUS JENNAHLYN, SA TABI NYA ANG BF NYANG SI MHARK. 'ETO ANG MAG-ASAWANG NAG-MERGE, SINA HESUS AT CHARMING. SA ILONG KO AY ANG LONER NA SI XANJOE.
TA'S NAG-AALAY DIN AKO NG ISANG SACRIFICE FOR THE GODS. PINUPUTOK KO TAPOS PINADASALAN hay.. KANINA ITONG SI "ESPERANZA MAE" ANG SACRIFICE
PARE ALIS NA TAYO. TAKOT NA KO..

MIKROKOSMOS

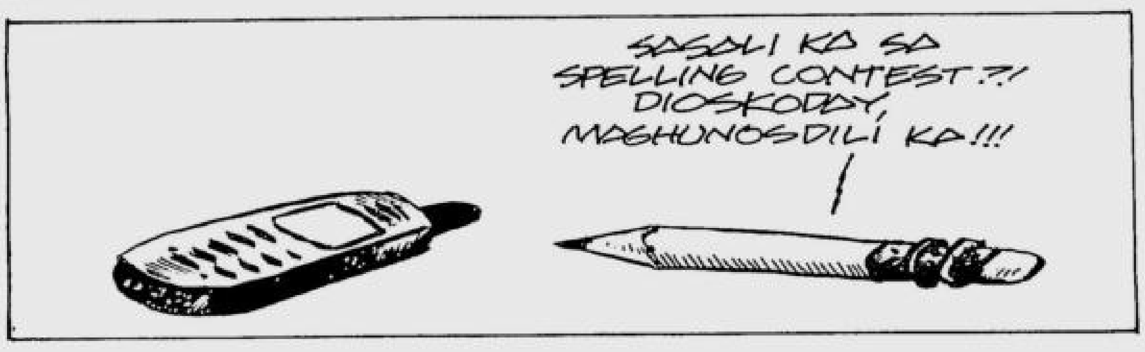
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PALIMOS PO...
'WAG MONG BIGYAN 'YAN, MIKO! IPAMBIBISYO LANG NIYA 'YAN.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
UMIINOM KA 'NO?
HINDI PO!
NAGYOYOSI KA 'NO?
HINDI RIN PO!
KITA MONG NANGYAYARI SA WALANG BISYO?
jmtejido7·06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

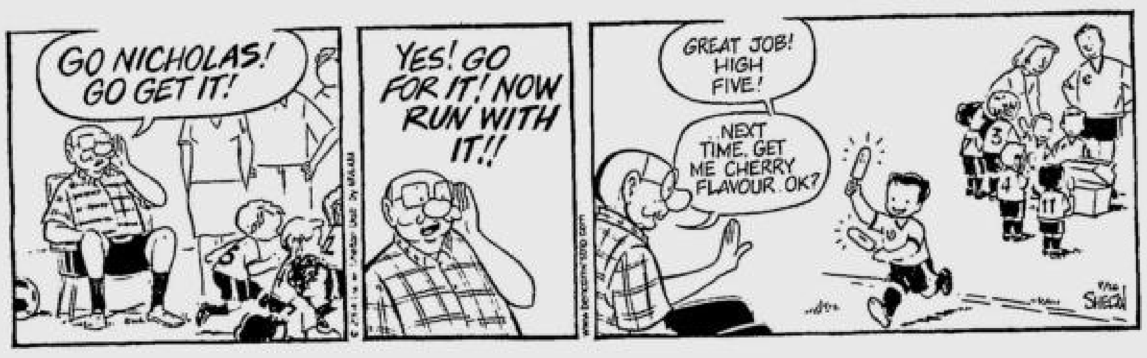
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SASALI KA SA SPELLING CONTEST?!! DIOSKODDY, MAGHUNOSDILI KA!!!

BEN

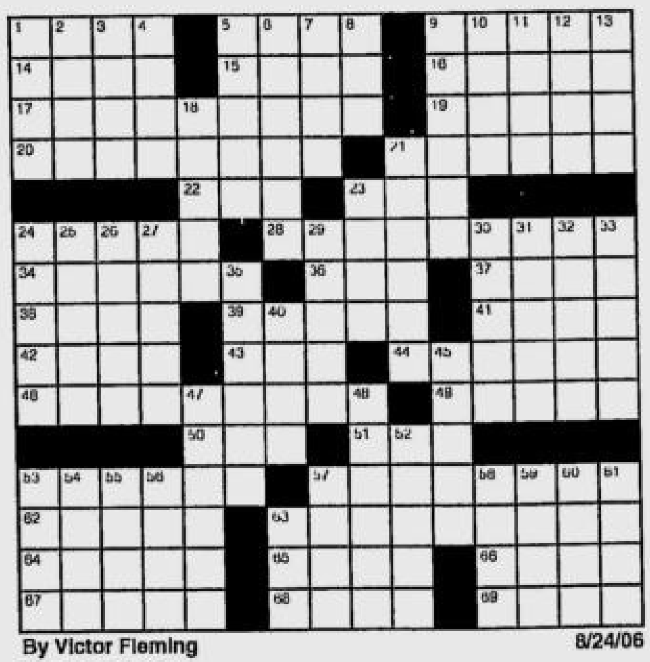
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GO NICHOLAS! GO GET IT!
YES! GO FOR IT! NOW RUN WITH IT!!
GREAT JOB! HIGH FIVE!
NEXT TIME, GET ME CHERRY FLAVOUR, OK?
www.bencomix.com
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ring signal
5 Sphere starter?
9 Largest city in Nigeria
14 Winglike parts
15 Scott in a high court case
16 Honda's robot
17 Start of a quip
19 "Cosmos" author Carl
20 Sofa feature
21 Part 2 of quip
22 Word of assent
23 Sellout letters
24 More than enough
28 Part 3 of quip
34 Soft hug
36 "Norma __"
37 Abu Dhabi leader
38 O.T. book
39 H.S. dances
41 Sitar melody
42 Unruly event
43 Flying Solo
44 Marshmallowy treats
46 Part 4 of quip
49 Of service
50 Is for several?
51 Bother persistently
53 End of quip
57 Promo placer
62 Singer Della
63 Source of the quip?
64 Entirely
65 Hourglass contents
66 Start the pot
67 Singer Mariah
68 This-and-that dish
69 Will of "The Waltons"

DOWN
1 Indiana senator
2 "The Time Machine" race
3 Glorify
4 __-majesty
5 Sun-dried brick
6 Most loyal
7 Pinochle combo
8 Uneven
9 Saddle ropes
10 Hurry-up acronym
11 Caron movie
12 Actor Sharif
13 Loudness unit
18 Grant's successor
21 "Gunsmoke" star
23 "The King and I" location
24 Sour tasting, old-style
25 Glenn Close movie
26 Conclusive evidence
27 Brought about
29 Maine college town
30 EDS founder
31 Japanese porcelain
32 Star in Orion
33 Wipe from memory
35 Globe
40 Comic Martha
45 Humid
47 Infrequently
48 Left to finish
52 Root beer brand
53 Writer Ambler
54 Warrior Princess of TV
55 Bosc or Anjou
56 __ Royale National Park, MI
57 Biol. course
58 Webzine
59 __ of the above
60 Adorable
61 Belgian river
63 Dolt


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR

8/24/06

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	B	L	E	■	H	E	R	O	■	S	M	E	W
A	B	R	A	M	■	I	C	E	S	■	E	E	R	O
N	E	U	W	I	R	T	H	C	H	I	C	A	G	O
A	L	T	■	■	O	M	O	O	■	O	T	T	O	S
■	■	■	O	S	S	A	■	V	I	N	O	■	■	■
■	M	A	R	T	I	N	P	E	T	E	R	P	A	N
L	A	T	E	E	N	■	A	R	T	■	■	L	G	E
A	T	E	S	T	■	E	N	S	■	S	E	A	L	S
I	S	A	■	■	A	N	I	■	T	E	R	C	E	T
C	U	M	M	I	N	G	C	A	B	A	R	E	T	■
■	■	■	E	T	T	A	■	B	A	N	S	■	■	■
S	E	N	S	E	■	G	E	A	R	■	■	A	R	K
P	R	Y	O	R	M	I	S	S	S	A	I	G	O	N
A	M	E	N	■	A	N	T	E	■	B	L	U	T	O
M	A	T	S	■	E	G	A	D	■	S	K	E	E	T

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8/24/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an analytical, intelligent, investigative mind. You're also extremely observant. This allows you to untangle mysteries and solve problems. Because of this, others often seek your advice. You're an excellent parent. You value knowledge and want to pass it on. Relationships become more important to you in your 30s. Work hard this year for a payoff in 2008.

Birthdate of: Marlee Matlin, actress; Rupert Grint, actor; Chad Michael Murray, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to discuss serious romance, and also to discuss how to deal with responsibilities of educating and raising children. (Pretty heady stuff.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day to tackle repairs at home and fix broken things, especially related to plumbing and bathrooms. You can also improve garbage areas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're extremely convincing today. If you have to persuade anybody to do anything, you'll do it! You seem to be able to grasp every angle and then present it skillfully.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might see completely new uses for old items that you already own. By nature, you are quite practical. No doubt, others are impressed with your resourcefulness.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today you're attracted to mysteries of all kinds. You might want to pass the day reading horror stories or watching whodunits. Your mind is very playful now!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day for research. You'll find whatever you're searching for. Nothing is too much trouble; you'll look under every rock.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend might try to convince you of something today. Perhaps it's the other way around. Either way, conversations with others are definitely heated and memorable!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with parents, bosses and authority figures are significant today. However, somebody might be obsessed about something. If so, disregard this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might encounter a powerful person today—someone who is like a teacher or guru to you. It's a great day for learning something new. (This could be life-changing.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today you have a chance to get to the bottom of something about shared property or something you own jointly with someone else. Now you'll find out how things should be shared.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with partners and close friends are not casual today. Quite the opposite—they are very profound and penetrating. You will definitely learn something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can make great improvements to where you work. Or perhaps you will improve the way you work. Somehow you will arrive at a superior solution today with respect to how you get things done on a daily basis.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

				1	5			
	1				9	2	7	
	5			6				
1	7							
2		6		8		5		4
							3	1
				3			4	
	8	5	9				1	
			6	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	9	2	1	4	3	7	5
3	7	2	5	6	9	4	1	8
5	1	4	3	8	7	2	9	6
1	3	5	9	4	2	8	6	7
6	9	8	1	7	3	5	2	4
2	4	7	8	5	6	1	3	9
7	8	3	6	2	5	9	4	1
9	5	6	4	3	1	7	8	2
4	2	1	7	9	8	6	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

Why it's Oyo Boy . . .

From page D1

touched by the gesture. It also made me realize how loving he is."

Gestures such as Oyo's should be treasured, said Angel, especially since, she said, they barely had time for each other.

"We both have busy schedules, and we're lucky to see each other once a week," she explained.

Now that Oyo has been included in the cast of "Majika," Angel is looking forward to seeing him more often.

She said she had met Oyo's mom, the formidable Dina Bonnevie, and had gotten along with her.

"But there are topics I avoid discussing, like the girls linked to Oyo's dad," Angel admitted.

Vic Sotto is said to be dating "Eat Bulaga" co-host Pia Guanio, although neither has confirmed nor denied the relationship.

Happy subject

But Angel talked non-stop about the house that she was finally able to buy for her family.

"I've been looking for a house and found one recently in a subdivision in Quezon City," the actress said. "It's a nice house, and even if it wasn't for sale, I somehow managed to buy it."

The owner of the house is migrating to the United States. Angel has placed a down payment on the property and plans to move in once the owner has left.

P16-M home

The house reportedly cost her P16 million.

"I plan to have my married sister live with us," said Angel. "That's why I wanted a big house. My sister takes care of my dad, who has gone blind."

Right now, Angel lives with her mother in a small condominium unit, which the actress bought from her earnings in "Mulawin."

"I'm not selling the condo even if it has become too small for us," she said. "It is the first thing I bought when I started making money. *Katas ito ng* 'Mulawin.'"

Saving up

Another reason that Angel is working harder than ever these days is her dad.

"I promised myself that I would have his eyes treated as soon as I raise the money," she said.

Recently, the actress brought her dad to St. Luke's hospital to find out if the latest stem cell replacement technique could restore his eyesight.

"Unfortunately, they couldn't do anything about his eyes," said Angel.

"But I'm happy that he's alive and well," she added. "I've always wanted to make life comfortable for him. He is a good father, and he took care of us. This is my way of giving back to him what he has given to us."

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P250 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 LITTLE MAN
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY/
MIAMI VICE
6 OH MY GHOST
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SNAKE ON A PLANE
CINEMA 2
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 CLICK
8 OH MY GHOST
9 MORTUARY
10 MIAMI VICE
11 CLICK
12 LITTLE MAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 CLICK
6 MORTUARY
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 KUBRADOR
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 LITTLE MAN
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 SUKOB
9 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
10 STORMBREAKER
11 MIAMI VICE
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 LITTLE MAN
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR
7 MIAMI VICE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 LITTLE MAN
6 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 FIERCE PROPLE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MORTUARY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 STORMBREAKER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

movietime

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SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 LITTLE MAN
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 KUBRADOR
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 OH MY GHOST
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SUKOB
7 CLICK
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LOVEWRECKED

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 KUBRADOR
6 SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 LITTLE MAN
5 KUBRADOR
6 OH MY GHOST

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 SUKOB
3 LITTLE MAN
4 STORMBREAKER

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 KUBRADOR
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB
8 LITTLE MAN

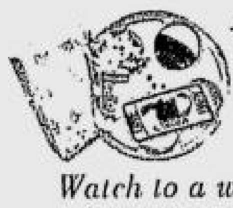
SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 STORMBREAKER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 ANT BULLY

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MIAMI
2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 LITTLE MAN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

movietime PROMO



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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 • THX
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MIAMI VICE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 CLICK
7 HADA
8 OH MY GHOST
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 LITTLE MAN
2 HADA
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 MORTUARY
7 CLICK

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 HADA
5 SUKOB
6 CLICK
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 MORTUARY

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MORTUARY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 OH MY GHOST
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 LITLLE MAN
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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Love moves in extremely show biz ways

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

LOVE MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS. Either the mystery unravels, or it remains unsolved. Take the case of the following show biz couples...

Sorrowful mystery

Meryll Soriano and **Bernard Palanca** are said to be taking the plunge anytime soon even without the blessings of her dad (**Willie Revillame**) and mom (**Maricel's** sis **Becbec**). When I saw Meryll recently, she told me that she and Bernard find the rumor corny so they refuse to let it affect them. She had that dazed look. It seemed like she was trying to convince herself more than me.

Is their hasty decision just a residual effect of drugs? They are both fresh from rehab. Maybe they should give it a little more time so they'll know for sure if they are really addicted to each other and nothing else.

Joyful mystery

Juliana Palermo and **Mon Confiado** have been dating for some months now. He pampers her like a queen. Mon gave Juliana a Fortuner for her birthday. No wonder his ex, **Ynez Veneracion** is still hung up on him. When a man spoils a woman, love never gets rotten.

Glorious mystery

Danica Sotto and (Purefoods cager) **Marc Pingris** are very secure in their relationship. My spy says **Gwen Garci** has been desperately seeking Marc's attention but that her flirtatious moves are all in vain. If you ignore someone long enough, she/he will go away.

Lipo a la Belo

Concert Comedy Queen **Ai-Ai de las Alas** is no longer smarting from her breakup with a nondescript ex-BF. She has smartened up by loving herself and her body more, with a little help from Dr. **Vicki Belo**'s Smart lipo.

"Nagpasexy ako hindi para bumalik ang papa kong bagets but to welcome the new one coming! *Mas masakit pa ang kirot ng* heartache than the lipo! Faster din ang recovery." It's the same procedure that **Ara Mina**, **Claudine Barretto** and **Mylene Dizon** went through. I am contemplating one myself (in time for my birthday). As we age, we ought to maintain our market value. And that's exactly what Ai-Ai is doing.

She is raring to flaunt her new fab form as she dons her tight costume for "Super Ai Returns" on Aug. 31, 10 p.m. at Zirkoh Timog. Joining her are **Sam Milby** and **Toni Gonzaga**. Call (0922) 888-4733.

Eternal love team

Jennylyn Mercado and **Mark Herras** are not out to give their fans false hopes in "Eternity." No reconciliation for them, but the beauty of the movie itself should be enough reason to watch it.

"I admit there are some scenes with Jen where I almost forgot that we're not lovers anymore. I miss kissing her the way I used to," sighs Mark. Says Jen, "I psyche myself that it's just work. Our being just friends *na lang* helped me in being more relaxed *sa mga eksena namin.* No more tension unlike when we were still on. *Konting tampuhan apektado* performance *namin.*" Although Mark and Jen may no longer relive their moments as lovers, at least they were able to recapture the feelings even just for their scenes in the film.

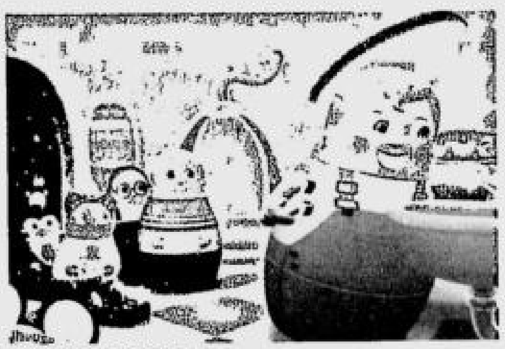
Seething Cita

I had an animated tête-à-tête with comedienne-Councilor **Cita Astals**. Her colorful love life is one for the books. She knows too well that love is a two-way street. Sad to say, her opening of Zobel Roxas Extension Street (at the border of Makati and Manila) seems to be a "one way thing." She laments, "I've been waiting three years for my reimbursement of 2.6 million. I plan to sue some city (Manila) officials. They are giving me the runaround. I have the documents to prove that they misallocated funds." Why can't they just go STREET to the point, right Cita?

New albums

- There's a new record label in town: NuGen (New Generation) Music. Their first offering is the self-titled album of **Chris Cayzer**. He appears as one of Dorina's (**Sarah Geronimo**) band members in "Bituing Walang Ningning." His album includes "I Got You," "Stay" and "Midsummer Love Affair," to name a few. If you watch Chris perform live, you'll be captivated by his impassioned singing.
- In Imago's new album "Blush" (under Universal Records), it's clear the group is one solid musical force in their spontaneous outpouring of love and other emotions. The album's first single, "Taralets," is a cordial invitation to cast all fears aside. Other cuts are "Sudo," "Lula," "Under Repair" and "Lights Out," among others. The band has won Awit, Katha and NU 107 Rock Awards. Check out "Blush" and you'll know why.
- Personal: Oozing thanks to all the fab gay people behind www.soozzyhopper.blogspot.com for voting for **IC** as the new "Queen."

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com



KID FIT

Free preview

The Playhouse Disney Channel Free Preview weekend on SkyCable features "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse," "Little Einsteins," "Jojo's Circus," "Bob the Builder" and "Bear in the Big Blue House" from Sept. 1-3.

The channel's educational and commercial-free environment was designed for two- to five-year-old kids.

New subscribers to the SkyCable Platinum-Metro Pack from Sept. 1-30 get a chance to win one of 20 Winnie the Pooh Interactive computers from Playhouse Disney. Viewers who subscribe during the Free Preview instantly get a free stationery set.

New time slot

"JoJo's Circus" on Playhouse Disney has a new time slot, 6:30 p.m. JoJo, "the world's cutest clown," is joined at The Big Top School by her friends, who engage preschool kids in fun games and exciting exercises that encourage imagination, movement and motor skill development.

'Inggo' collectibles

Super Inggo (Makisig Morales), Boy Bawang (Sam Concepcion) and the rest of the cast of the telefantasya "Super Inggo" have a lot to be proud of—even before the show's initial airing on Aug. 28 on ABS-CBN.

The "Super Inggo" merchandise line has already been launched in various outlets nationwide, with collectibles such as yoyos, toy weapons and coloring activity books.

'Pokémonia'

Will Samurai Jack ever destroy his evil nemesis, Aku, who sent him into the future to a world ruled by Aku? Will Jack find a way home back to his own time?

"Samurai Jack" concludes with the final new episodes until Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

Ash and his Pokémon, Pikachu, work together as partners and battle other trainers to head for Ash's destiny on "Pokémon," which airs Aug. 27 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

'It's lonely being a rock star'

By Fran Katigbak

"IT'S A LONELY LIFE, BEING a rock star," revealed Puerto Rican Zayra Alvarez, who got the boot from "Rock Star: Supernova" last week.

The flamboyant Latina, whose looks, showmanship and trademark zany costumes had generated quite a buzz, was eliminated following the debut of her original song in the reality talent show launched to find Supernova's front man.

At the core of Supernova are three rock legends—guitarist Gilby Clarke from Guns N' Roses, bassist Jason Newsted from Metallica and drummer Tommy Lee from Motley Crew.

Zayra, an industrial engineering graduate, left her family and hometown for the US eight years ago to pursue her passion for music.

Now based in Dallas, Texas, she has emerged from the city's club circuit, released her breakthrough album "Ruleta," and toured the West Coast and Puerto Rico.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

In an exclusive phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment over the weekend, Zayra talked about her quest and the biggest sacrifice she has made in following her dream.

Where do you get ideas for your outfits in the show?

I think they (outfits) find me more than me thinking about them. Maybe I would just have an idea but, really, I would get to a place and the clothes would be there waiting for me.

You looked different before "Rock Star." When did you decide to change your style?

Yeah, I think I was a little different. It (appearance) mainly depended on the songs and how comfortable I was feeling each week [on the show]. At the beginning, you don't really know what's going on and what the boundaries [on] TV were. I didn't know what I was allowed to do. I had to gradually come out.

Who were your musical influences while growing up in Puerto Rico?

Madonna and Michael Jackson—they were two of the biggest artists when I was a little girl.

When did you move to the United States?

I moved to the US eight years ago.

What are your plans now?

I plan to do the same thing I was doing before, promoting my album ("Ruleta") and playing with my band. My album was re-released and it's now available on my website. I'm also halfway through my English album. I'll be playing in the meantime.

Where are you headed next?

It depends on what's out here for me. I'm flying back to Dallas but I will be coming to California as much as I can.

On the show, Dave Navarro said your best route was to go solo. What did you think of that?

I loved it. It was very accurate and that's what I will be doing.

How do you describe your music?

My music is a little darker [form of] rock-alternative. It has some elements of pop but it's definitely darker in lyrics. Mine is a darker kind of rock than Supernova's, which is more fun and a little bit more bright.

WITH HER flamboyant outfits, Zayra provided the glam rock ingredient in "Rockstar Supernova."

When you auditioned for "Rock Star: Supernova," did you have an idea what type of rock the band would play?

I was told the music of Supernova would be a mix of Coldplay and Radiohead. That's what I came here for. But I ended up with… I don't know.

What's it like to live in the "Rock Star" mansion?

It was amazingly beautiful, like a dream. It will be hard going back to my little house.

Do you have relatives in the US?

All my family, they're in Puerto Rico.

What's it like to live away from your family?

So far, it's the hardest thing I've ever had to do in my life, to leave my hometown, to go into my own life adventure.

I'm over it now because it's been eight years, but it's still difficult growing old without seeing your parents grow old and seeing how your family expands. That is the biggest sacrifice musicians make all the time by being on the road and pursuing a dream. It's a lonely life, being a rock star.

How do you keep in touch with them?

I try to visit my family at least three times a year.

Do you plan to branch out into, say, modeling or acting? Have you had offers for such projects?

I would love to do acting and modeling. I've got a little of everything but I don't know what things are going to be in the future. If anything makes sense, if it's awesome and a great opportunity, I will take it.

How long do you intend to stay in the music business?

I want to play music all my life and I want that music to pay my bills.

"Rock Star: Supernova" airs on Star World every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m., with replays every Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.

UMA Thurman and Luke Wilson in "My Super Ex-Girlfriend"

G-Girl: From savior to stalker

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, A NUMBER of superhero comic books-turned-movies have been received with overwhelming box office success or critical acclaim, or both. The comedy "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" is a welcome parody of the superhuman condition, and also gives us a unique glimpse at the personal life of a most unusual one, G-Girl (Uma Thurman). She selflessly rescues innocent bystanders whenever she can, but she reveals a vengeful, vicious side when her new lover, Matt (Luke Wilson), suddenly breaks up with her.

It's nothing you'd take too seriously, obviously, but it's easy to appreciate this twisted, over-the-top adventure. While Clark Kent, Peter Parker and the X-Men are martyrs to the core, and they value discipline when it comes to their exceptional abilities, G-Girl's alter-ego Jenny Johnson is terribly insecure and flaky, and has no problems with cutting loose at those who hurt her feelings. When Matt and his co-worker Hannah (Anna Faris) realize a mutual attraction, for example, G-Girl unhesitatingly throws a live, hungry shark at them through the bedroom window!

Nope, she's definitely not a typical superhero, but like other costumed adventurers, she too has a dedicated arch-enemy. Professor Bedlam (Eddie Izzard) was G-Girl's old high school buddy. How very "Smallville," except they almost, you know, became more than friends. They metamorphosed instead into bitter enemies, and now Bedlam intends to take advantage of her current emotional state, as villains are wont to. Why he doesn't make his move years ago during similar opportunities is a little puzzling, but logic isn't always applicable in this particular caricature.

It's extra-campy, but even so, the stunts feel a little off at times, specifically when Thurman "flies." She poses with little majesty or flexibility during a few action scenes, too. But the actress pulls off the scorned uberwitch entertainingly. If only they had given her co-star Wanda Sykes a bigger role and superpowers. Now that would've been a riot.

"My Super Ex-Girlfriend" chronicles the absurd but somewhat amusing transformation of G-Girl, from petulant do-gooder to homicidal stalker and beyond. The film is imaginative, although it meanders into unfunny territory a few times. It also concludes without truly addressing the moral implications of the troubled heroine's violent behavior. Still, "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" manages to illustrate and emphasize an empowered demigoddess' human side, complete with temperaments, kinky desires and thoughts of finding true love.